

Lynch agrees to see Heath next week

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

Mr Heath and Mr Lynch have brought forward their meeting to discuss the Irish question to Monday and Tuesday. The talks were originally scheduled for late October but Mr Heath considers that the lack of understanding between them has become so marked that an immediate meeting is necessary.

There will be a second meeting between the two Prime Ministers later this year. Mr Lynch accepted Mr Heath's invitation on Tuesday night, when the two Governments were putting out contradictory statements about the border shooting incident.

Mr Heath first offered to bring forward the talks nearly two weeks ago just before sending off his telegram accusing Mr Lynch of interfering in the affairs of the United Kingdom. When Mr Lynch did not accept the olive branch, Mr Heath later named specific dates. He is believed to have issued the invitation at least three days before the border incident.

Although Mr Heath did not actually refuse in the invitation to discuss constitutional issues either of that of Stormont or that of Stormont-Whitehall, it is clear that these will not be discussed.

It is felt that Mr Lynch must know this as it has been said so often. It has been made easier for him to accept the invitation by not spelling it out.

Mr Lynch will arrive at Chequers on Monday morning, and the two Prime Ministers hope to have three or four rounds of private talks by Tuesday evening. Mr Maudling, the Home Secretary, and Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Foreign Secretary, may be called in for part of the discussions.

Mr Heath will explain why the British Government thinks that intervention is necessary and he also wants Mr Lynch to understand the British Government's long-term plans for an Ulster where Catholics can play a fuller part in political life.

Mr Faulkner, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, has been kept in touch with the latest developments but so far there are no signs that there will be the three-way meeting which Mr Lynch had asked for, though this could be a possibility at the second meeting.

Mr Heath has called a Cabinet meeting today to discuss the proposed talks.

Although there was no official comment from Stormont about the meeting it was generally welcomed in Government circles. It is felt there that the meeting will give Mr Heath a chance to make it plain again to Mr Lynch that the constitutional status of the North is not in any doubt, and for Mr Heath to ask for a considerably tougher line against the IRA in the Republic.

Mr Lynch is known to have lent his private moral support to the campaign for civil disobedience in the North and it is hoped that the meeting will

Habes corpus plea fails; VIP treatment for Cahill, page 6. Leader comment, page 10. Tribunal tribulations; locked in terror, page 11.

enable the two leaders to reach some kind of agreement on this. The campaign is having an increasingly serious effect in Northern Ireland. It is virtually 100 per cent strong in many working-class Catholic areas.

Our Dublin Correspondent adds: Dublin has maintained and will continue to maintain the necessity for a political solution—meaning at least three-party and if possible four-party talks between London, Dublin, and Belfast, although Mr

Lynch's colleagues are by no means convinced of the usefulness of such a conference.

At present the talks at Chequers seem likely to be composed of Mr Lynch and the Ambassador in London, Dr Donald O'Sullivan. The absence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Hillery, appears to confirm that no detailed analysis of constitutional questions will be attempted, although Mr Lynch is likely to repeat the Social Democratic Labour Party's demand for the replacement of Stormont.

A Foreign Office spokesman refused to comment last night on whether an application for extradition of Mr Joe Cahill, leader of the IRA Provisionals, would be made to the United States authorities.

Mr Cahill flew to the US from Dublin yesterday on a mission to raise funds for arms and ammunition. He will speak in several cities and appear on television.

It is understood there is no evidence known to the British authorities upon which an application could be made. Although Mr Cahill is a British citizen from Northern Ireland, it is not known whether he has a Republic of Ireland passport.

Labour links up to study hopes for Ulster peace

By HAROLD JACKSON

The British and Irish Labour Parties yesterday agreed to set up a joint commission, which will visit Northern Ireland and study any proposals for a new political initiative in the province.

The decision came after meetings in London between the British Labour Party, the Northern Ireland Labour Party, the Irish Labour Party, and the Social and Democratic Labour Party, the main Opposition group at Stormont. The final statement, drawn up by all four parties, showed signs of some fine-tuning in the corridors of Stormont House.

Mr Wilson did not attend the meetings but was present at a working lunch.

Apart from the commission, the only positive point to emerge was an agreement to meet again to draft proposals to be put "to the Governments concerned"—though which gov-

ernments was not specified. The conference rather had its thunder stolen by the announcement of Mr Lynch's visit to London, but Mr Ian Mikardo said afterwards that he was sure the delegates would have welcomed the move had it come early enough.

The next meeting is likely to take place about a month, by which time it is hoped that the commission will have had time to get together a number of alternative proposals for consideration.

The statement said that "it was agreed that the introduction of internment in Northern Ireland had alienated wide sections of the community, was unacceptable, and that no reasonable solution could even be envisaged without an end of internment and the release of the detainees held without trial." It said the present system of government in the province had failed to provide

a basis for peace, justice, and stability.

The parties had agreed that in view of the "immense complexity" of preparing proposals to meet the needs of the situation they needed time to consider them. The preparation of the statement alone involved considerable effort on the part of Mr Mikardo and Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who shuttled between separate meetings of the various groups.

Each Irish party had separate meetings with the British Labour leaders and there were further joint meetings between the Irish. The gaps were gradually narrowed, but it is difficult to judge how real this patching-up will prove.

After the meeting Mr John Hume, an SDLP delegate, said his party would not talk to any Government until detention was suspended, which left a large question mark over the joint proposals "to stop the government concerned." The complexities of Irish politics do not stop at home.

M. Challe submits to siege

From Nesta Roberts, Paris, Sept. 1

walked in without a by-your-leave to Madame Lemosquet, but none the less, was politely received by her son.

The six grandchildren, meantime, vanished in all directions. When after a quarter of an hour of polite parleying, M. Challe came out in the yard, he found nearly fifty Norman farmers waiting for him. It seemed as if he were to be besieged. M. Challe did not find that a tyre had been let down.

"Come, come!" or the equivalent, M. Challe said. The farmers did just that. First there were 50, then 100, then, unbelievably soon there were about 300. All roads led to M. Challe's farm, and, in the twinkling of an eye, arrows had appeared to mark the way through the curly lanes.

"We knew something was

up," the local farmers' union delegate, M. Bernard Osmont, was to explain later. "We thought he would try a seizure and we were not having it. We were not having 200,000 francs damages either. It would ruin these people."

M. Challe, in his neat town suit, sat on the ground, the farmers making an impenetrable hedge round him. At lunchtime, charmingly, they offered him an omelette before tucking in themselves. M. Challe said "no," rather distantly. By 10 pm he was glad to accept a public sandwich. Soon after the police arrived.

But the Norman farmers knew their law and nobody could be charged with anything. M. Challe had not suffered any violence, and he was not being sequestered, because, he was in the open

air, though, when, in the small hours, it started to rain, he was offered, and accepted, the shelter of a barn. The police could only settle on the touchline for the night watch.

It was 4 am when M. Challe cracked to the extent of talking, then he fought point by point, as in court. There was a pause in the debate around breakfast time when a vegetable soup laced with cream was brought round. M. Challe did not fancy it, so his considerate host brought him coffee.

It was mid-morning, after a 24-hour sitting, when M. Challe declared in writing that he would withdraw his action for 200,000 francs damages against his tenants, provided they were out by midday on September 28. The farmers, meanwhile, had melted into the landscape as quietly as they had materialised from it.



THE HEIGHT OF TRADITION: for the first time in 255 years a Royal Artillery officer (left) took over from a Grenadier Guards commander at Buckingham Palace yesterday. This was the first time since its formation that the RA has provided a unit for guard duties in London

Engineers 'facing 85,000 jobs cut'

By BERNARD PRATT

The Engineering Employers' Federation, faced with a large pay claim, yesterday forecast that unemployment in the industry could rise by another 85,000 by the end of the year. It expressed grave doubts about the effectiveness of the Government's strategy to pull the country out of its economic troubles.

At the same time, however, figures on car sales on hire purchase show the beginnings of an apparent consumer boom. More than 40,000 new car HP contracts were taken out last month, a 23 per cent increase on August last year and almost double the July figure.

Industry's fears, page 6. Leader comment, page 10. A year to wait for recovery, page 13. Car sales records, back page.

Flights offered

Hundreds of American young people stranded in Britain because of difficulties with their American air charter firms have been offered flights back at about one-third of the price. Pan American and Trans World Airlines yesterday announced single fares of \$95 (£39.60).

Elms flourishing

Elms more than 150 years old at Hythe, Kent, have been found to be resistant to Dutch elm disease which is threatening the rest of Britain's elm population. The elms of the Huntingdon variety, planted by the War Office along the military canal to supply tough wood for muzzle loaders, were saved by the development of the rifle. They have had the disease for 20 years and are still flourishing.

Pilot killed

An army pilot died and two soldiers were seriously injured when their Sioux helicopter crashed into a stubble field at Goodworth Clatford, near Andover, Hampshire, yesterday.

Smoking banned

Smoking was banned yesterday in the New Inn in the Yorkshire dales. Mr Jack Showers, aged 68, landlord of the inn, at Appletreweick, near Bolton, said: "If anyone persists in smoking I shall throw a bucket of water over them. My wife's death was due to the stupid habit. From now on, people can kill themselves away from my pub: no one will ever smoke here again."

Jets for Germany

The United States had agreed to sell West Germany 175 F4 Phantom jet fighter planes which would "add quite significantly" to the Bonn Government's ability to defend itself, the US Defense Secretary Mr Melvin Laird said last night.

Giant radio telescope for Wales

By BERNARD PRATT

The Science Research Council announced yesterday that it is to pay for the detailed design work on the biggest steerable radio telescope in the world, which will be built at Meifod, Montgomeryshire, and be worked by remote control from Jodrell Bank in Cheshire.

In approving a diameter of 375ft, the SRC has clipped 25ft—between £500,000 and £1 million—off the ambitions of Sir Bernard Lovell, who has been pressing for many years for a 400ft-diameter telescope. Sir Bernard said yesterday that he was disappointed "to a certain extent" at the reduction. It would mean that a given amount of work would take longer to complete.

But the new telescope, to be known as the Mark Va, will be one-and-a-half times the size of the original Mark I telescope at Jodrell Bank. The Mark I was the largest steerable telescope in the world until a slightly bigger one was completed in Germany in the spring of this year.

The cost of the new telescope is expected to be over £4 millions. The detailed design work announced yesterday will cost about £250,000 and be carried out by Fusiabank and Company, the consultant engineers, who designed the 250ft. Mark I.

The Mark Va will pose many engineering problems. The steerable sections will weigh about 700,000 tons, but an automatic system of correction will keep distortion of the bowl due to its weight to less than 2 kilometres at any point.

This accuracy will enable Jodrell Bank to make far more sensitive observations than has been possible in the past. The number of radio sources so far plotted by all radio telescopes in the world is less than 10,000. The new one will enable scientists to record about 100,000 sources a year.

The new telescope will pick up radiations of only a few centimetres, whereas the Mark I telescope went down to only 20 centimetres. The Mark Va will sometimes work in harness with the Mark I as an interference experiment. The interference pattern caused by the separation of the two telescopes will give an indication of the diameter of the radio source. This is a standard technique of radio astronomy, but it will be the first time that it has been carried out with such a sensitive instrument.

Sir Bernard said that the whole of Britain had been searched for a suitable site for the Mark Va. Meifod, which is between Welshpool and Oswestry, was chosen because of its freedom from radio interference. There had been continuing discussions between Jodrell Bank and the local planning authority, and a formal planning application would be made shortly.

The announcement that work is to go ahead on the telescope was welcomed in Meifod last night. There have been objections

Greeks arrest Lady Fleming

From DAVID TONGE

Athens, September 1. Four people, including Lady Fleming, Greek-born widow of the inventor of penicillin, were arrested early yesterday on charges of trying to assist a political prisoner, Alexander Panagoulis, to escape, a Government spokesman said tonight.

Lady Fleming, who ran an underground information network in Greece during the Second World War and was imprisoned by the Germans for sheltering British soldiers, was apparently arrested some distance from the prison where Panagoulis was held.

The other three were caught red-handed. They were Constantine Androustopoulos, a Greek who was imprisoned here in 1967 and then given an amnesty, John Skelton, aged 28, an American student, and Mrs Athena Psychou, a Greek-American.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Arabs see vote for federation as show of strength

From DAVID HIRST: Beirut, September 1

The people of Egypt, Syria, and Libya went to the polls today to cast what is expected to be an overwhelming vote in favour of establishing the "Federation of Arab Republics." On the first such three-country referendum of its kind—the projected Federation of Egypt, Syria, and Iraq did not even get that far—an estimated 12 million voters out of a total population of 42 million answered yes or no to the question: "Do you approve of the basic provisions of the Federal State?"

Close season on Market ends

By HELLA PICK

The holiday calm on the Common Market entry debate is ending.

The pro-Marketeers in the Labour Party are launching a national campaign tomorrow with Lord George-Brown as their opening speaker. The Co-operative Movement has a special one-day conference on the issue on Saturday. Next week is the annual meeting of the TUC, and the Market will be one of the big points of debate. Then it is on to the party conferences, and finally, as the climax, the long parliamentary debate at the end of October, when the politicians will have to cast their votes.

The Government, of course, remains confident that the pro-Market majority is assured in the Commons, as well as in the Lords. There is no reason to question this judgment, even though all the indications remain that the Labour Party conference will take an anti-Market stand. There is no doubt at all that the TUC will record a large "anti" vote. The outcome of the Co-operative conference is more in doubt: the division of opinion in the movement is fairly close, and the pro-Market faction believes it has a good chance of winning.

The latest poll to be published—the Harris poll, which was commissioned by the "Daily Express" and published yesterday—shows 36 per cent for membership, 39 per cent against, and 25 per cent "don't know." The poll became available a week ago, but there was apparently some hesitation in publishing it, since even the anti-Market "Express" seems to have felt it showed an unmistakable trend away from opposition to membership.

In June, 57 per cent of those questioned by the Harris poll were opposed, and in April it was as high as 69 per cent. Those who said "yes" in June were 20 per cent and in April only 17 per cent.

Opinion Research Centre, fight.

which does a fortnightly poll for the European Movement, has recorded a steady increase in support. The last poll, published a week ago, showed a majority of 47 per cent for membership, and 45 per cent against. The "don't know" has shrunk considerably, and is, in fact, much lower here than in the sampling carried out by the Harris Poll.

It should not be supposed that a research organisation working for the European Movement is in any way biased. The pro-Marketeers, as well as the anti-Marketeers, are far more concerned at this stage to discover the true state of public opinion than to produce favourable polls.

It is too soon to tell whether public opinion towards the EEC is being influenced by the monetary crisis, and the failure—so far—of the EEC countries to adopt a common stand.

Cynics inside the EEC who are deeply disappointed by the Community's failure to meet the US challenge, are asking, rather sardonically, whether the British might not think again about joining such a weak body.

The Government, however, is not perturbed—the Community's disunity has left Britain a free hand for the time being—and the public at large hardly looks at the monetary crisis as part and parcel of the Market issue. This may change if the monetary crisis throws the Community into even greater confusion than it has done so far.

● The Conservative candidate in the Macclesfield by-election has changed his mind over the Common Market. Mr. Nicholas Winterton, who said in June that he was against entry, said yesterday that on the terms negotiated it would be in Britain's interests to join.

Mr. Winterton, a sales manager from Tamworth, Staffordshire, will be defending a Conservative majority of more than 10,000 in a three-cornered fight.

The three Governments have been doing their best to arouse enthusiasm among peoples who, especially Egyptians and Syrians, are for ever being urged to embark on great new ventures which, as often as not, are born out of the ruins of unsuccessful predecessors.

"Yes, we shall vote yes," said the Cairo press this morning. "Yes to Federation. Yes to Steadfastness. Yes to liberation." echoed Damascus. In Libya it was forecast that on this great day for the Arab nation the union would be "unanimously" endorsed.

Leaflets dropped Helicopters dropped leaflets over Damascus. In Cairo posters explain, under a big clenched fist, that union means strength.

In Libya where they are celebrating the second anniversary of the revolution, Colonel Gaddafi, the moving spirit behind the Federation, is being presented with the newly created "Order of Valour."

No effort is being spared to ensure that all who have the right to vote do so. In Syria, there were special facilities for the blind or disabled, mobile polling booths went in to the desert for the benefit of nomadic tribesmen and several buses took Syrians living in Lebanon to do their electoral duties.

The main immediate interest of the Federation in Arab eyes is the impact it will have on the struggle with Israel. But the question asked this morning by the pro-Egyptian Beirut newspaper "Al-Muharrir," an all-out supporter of the Federation, is whether it will come to blows with first: King Hussein or Israel?

NATO talks on troop cuts

NATO Deputy Foreign Ministers will meet in Brussels on October 5 and 6 to prepare the next step towards negotiations for East-West troop reductions in Europe. The meeting was decided at a NATO Council meeting in June but no date was set up until yesterday.

"MONEY has no smell," said one of the currency dealers in Lillibum Street, quoting the Talmud to justify his illegal trade. He need not have bothered. Everybody knows that the Government knows all about Lillibum Street and does nothing about it for reasons of its own.

"We get all kinds here," said the man, who wore the Lillibum Street uniform: shirt, sleeves, hat and sunglasses. "Tourists selling their dollars, Israelis wanting them to travel abroad, bankers wanting a profit." And the last category, no doubt, sometimes acts for the Government when it wants to regulate the "free" rate. That Lillibum Street is respectable, if not legal, is proved by the fact that it is visited every day in the newspapers. Unashamedly as "The Black Market rates."

The dealers are, for some reason, all from Poland. They speak Yiddish as well as Hebrew and operate in porches, alleyways and pavements. They have been having a hectic time. People bought dollars madly before devaluation because they knew it would happen. The dealers ("we fix the rates from what we hear on the radio, and sometimes by our sense of smell") had forecast the degree of devaluation with uncanny accuracy. Afterwards business was good again as everyone offloaded the same dollars at the higher rates. But the difference between the free and official rates is now down to 3 or 4 per cent (it was 12 per cent in the heyday last year) and this amounts to a slump in the street.

THE REAL UNDERWORLD has also been in the news. Meir Lansky, reported in the United States and here as a prince of the international Mafia, has been staying quietly in a respectable seaside hotel near here for many months. He is said to be going back to his old life of crime, and no doubt for compelling reasons—and claims that Israel's Law of the Return gives him, as a Jew, the right to stay on. He has had no serious convictions and stands accused of no crime, but he is said to have provoked a national controversy when his colleagues began visiting him here, and apparently offered to deposit huge sums in the Bank of Israel and other banks. (Both the colleagues and the deposits were refused.)

The police are holding an inquiry into why a senior police officer stopped

We asked the way to the beach... "What do you want to go there for on a blowy day like this?"



Letter from Tel-Aviv

an inquiry into why a prominent lawyer, who happened to be the deputy Mayor of Tel-Aviv, was reported as having offered money to a journalist for details of an American document on Lansky's past.

Everyone agrees that Lansky is too big a fish to bother with local operators. But the argument about whether he should stay or go has prompted a spate of revelations about the local Mafia products. Tel-Aviv, it seems, is no longer a developing country when it comes to protection racketeering. But what really shook the public was the disclosure that the nation's football league games have been rigged for years by big time gamblers who paid off the teams. The Football Association is now resigning over it and everyone hopes for a fresh start. Anyway the league has published its fixtures for next season and the game will go on.

NOTWITHSTANDING the activities of criminals and guerrillas, Israel remains comparatively safe. People are fond of reminding each other that it is safer to walk in Tel-Aviv after dark than in New York. And one's daughter can play the safety in the park—and even come home alone after a late party—than in London. Israelis, with their high proportion of ex-refugees and concentration camp veterans, have more neurotic fear square mile than anyone else on earth. But somehow they seem to steer clear of drink and sexual mania.

ON THE popular beaches you can't move for Arabs. With bankers allowed to cross the old "green line" without a permit, the price of communal taxis in

Nabbus and Jericho has all doubled, as everyone flocks to the side (which many have never before, though they live only an hour's drive away). They were much photographed at first, but General D killed all the pictures taken together this latest evidence that his police normalisation works. This put their being photographed but they come, their ladies hitching up long skirts to paddle, making Nat 1971 echo Brighton 1910.

IS IT TOO presumptuous to pare Tel-Aviv with Paris? It straight, wide boulevards with ment cafés, round magazine ki with advertisements (but no soires) and musty respectable v apartment blocks (but no concier). Nowhere looks more Parisian Rothschild Avenue with its little and benches at one end. But nothing less Parisian than those paunchy in shirt sleeves and brown hats wh on the benches. They just sit there through you as you pass, as if you a piece of cloth full of not too ch meat.

You are never alone in Tel-Aviv even if you don't live in one of the matchbox flats. On the streets, on beach, in a shop, driving your car, are constantly being told what to do. When we asked the way to the beach we were told: "The beach? What do you want to go there for on a blowy day like this?" "What do you want to do?" "What do you want a v sweater for?" "Exasperated at being told baby was too cold, or too hot, or o to be wearing shoes, we have fected the only reply that shuts pe up. "It doesn't matter, actually, have several others at home."

Some high school children w essay after a trip to London. "W bliss just to be left to do what want," a girl wrote. You could naked down Piccadilly and not would tell you off. But nothing exception was being doing nothing and asked what I was doing sit there doing nothing. I knew at one was an Israeli.

Walter Schwab

Diplomat found dead in embassy

From our Correspondent

Madrid, September 1

An American diplomat was found dead on Monday in the United States Embassy chancery in Santa Isabel, capital of Equatorial Guinea. His colleague in the embassy was suffering from a mental breakdown and is being taken to the United States under medical supervision.

Mr. Lewis Hoffacker, the US Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea, and the Cameroons, at present on leave in the United States, is flying back to Santa Isabel to investigate the incident.

The dead man is Mr. Donald J. Leany and his colleague is Mr. Alfred J. Erdos, both aged 47. A US diplomat at soundings has present on leave in the United States to open an inquiry.

US authorities have been puzzled during the past few days by incomprehensible messages from the American Embassy in Santa Isabel.

No official communication has been issued so far by the Guinness or American authorities. The statement that Mr. Erdos was "incapacitated and apparently suffering from a mental breakdown."

Flying grandmother dies

Amsterdam, September 1

The "flying grandmother," Mrs. Sarah Krasnoff, aged 80, from Cleveland, Ohio, is dead. She died here today after spending five months and more than \$22,000 on flying across the Atlantic between New York and Amsterdam with her 14-year-old grandson, Mitchell Gelfand.

After an estimated 160 almost daily crossings of the Atlantic, Mrs. Krasnoff had a heart attack yesterday when she arrived from New York and went to a hotel near Schiphol airport to rest. Doctors did not consider her condition serious but they said she was suffering from complete exhaustion after being airborne for prolonged periods.

The boy's father, Mr. Leonard Gelfand, arrived at Schiphol airport today and went to the hotel, but Mrs. Krasnoff had already died.

While the boy slept, Mr. Gelfand of Orange, Ohio, told reporters that he could not reveal why the boy and his grandmother had led such a strange life flying.

Mr. Gerald Chatman, Mr. Gelfand's lawyer said that Mrs. Krasnoff, widow of a steel state owner, had looked after Mitchell after his mother's death. The boy had

like to learn to fly," and the boy would always say: "Grandma likes flying."

They broke all the flying records for passengers and have flown more hours than many pilots. They always travelled first-class and the boy was often allowed to travel on the slight deck.

Newspaper reports from Cleveland said Mrs. Krasnoff had abducted her grandson. The reports quoted Mr. George said, assistant county prosecutor, as saying child stealing charges would have been brought against Mrs. Krasnoff had she returned to Cleveland. — Renter and UPI.

Pope prays for unity with Anglicans

Castelgandolfo, September 1

The Pope today prayed for unity between the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches when he received a group of Anglicans after his weekly general audience here today.

Referring to forthcoming talks, the Windsor, the Anglican-Roman Catholic commission on unity, the Pope

said: "Since we know how important these discussions are they are the object of our fervent prayer today, and in this prayer we are united with our dear brother in Christ, the Archbishop of Canterbury."

The commission was set up after Dr. Ramsey visited the Pope in 1968. — Renter and UPI.

Qatar severs links with Britain

Doha, September 1

The Gulf State of Qatar today announced its independence and decided to end all agreements with Britain.

The deputy ruler, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, made the declaration over Qatar radio and television, in the name of the ruler, Sheikh Ahmad, who is visiting Switzerland.

The announcement said: "Qatar will assume its international responsibilities by itself and will take over full

powers, both internally and externally. "It will immediately begin taking the necessary measures for the defence of the State and the United Nations."

The statement expressed Qatar's support for a nine-member federation of the Gulf emirates. Such a grouping was the best means of strengthening the "close brotherly ties between them and the other parts of the greater Arab homeland" and guaranteeing stability and progress in the area.

Special representative for the Gulf area, will leave London by air for Bahrain on Friday on a 10-day tour of the region for talks. British officials said in London.

Britain intends to withdraw her operational forces from the Gulf by the end of this year. She has proposed new arrangements under which some contingents could remain in a liaison and training role. The Foreign Office has welcomed an agreement, signed on July 18 by six Trucial States on the Gulf for a future union. — Renter.

Wave of art theft in Italy

Pieve di Cadore

September 1

As the search continued for the Titian painting stolen from the parish church of this town in 1477, police stated that a collector wanting to take it to himself. This theory being considered because painting is so valuable that thief would have difficulty selling it.

Thirteen other paintings were also stolen from the church. The Titian, it is said to be worth \$665,000. This was the biggest of the major art thefts in Italy this week.

The other thefts were Rome. In one, burglars stole some of the collection of a German art dealer, including work by the 18th-century master, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. In the other, they stole paintings valued at \$66,000 from a building contractor.

Art thefts have now reached unprecedented proportions, thieves have been particularly attracted to poorly guarded churches like that at Pieve di Cadore.

Police said thieves took about \$20 million worth of treasures last year and the total could be even higher this year. — UPI.

Failed to testify

Four young people who refused to testify at the trial of nine Jews in Moldavia on anti-Semitic charges have been sentenced to six months' compulsory work. The Moscow said yesterday that nine Jews were sentenced on the day of June to labour camps for terms of from one to five years.

TELEVISION

"Cinema" on Joe Losey (London, ITV at 10.30). Rex Cowan, wreck hunter, escaping to fulfillment (BBC-1 at 10.55). Daniel Ellsberg, the Pentagon Papers man, gives a forty-minute interview to "Late Night Line-up" (BBC-2 at 10.55, shamefully enough).

BBC-1

10 p.m. Hobbit: People and their Hobbies.
1.30 Tales of the Riverbank.
1.45 News.
2.0 Top of the Pops: British Championships Meeting 1971.
4.20 Play School.
4.40 Jackanory.
4.55 Dastardly and Muttley.
5.15 Boy on an Island.
5.40 Abbott and Costello.
5.44 Adventures of Parsley.
5.50 News.
6.0 Nationwide.
6.45 Expedition North America: Bering Sea.
7.10 Top of the Pops.
7.50 All in the Family: "Oh, My Aching Back".
8.15 Presenting Keith Mitchell: musical programme.
9.0 Nine O'clock News.
9.20 The First Churchills: Part 9.
10.5 Escape to Fulfillment: part 2.
10.35 24 Hours: Kenneth Allsop (including Common Market Question Time).
11.35 Art and Technology: The Kinetics Show.
12 midnight Weather.

WALES (as BBC-1 except)—6 p.m. Wales Today and Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Rediff. 10.5-10.55 Byd Y Bol. 12.2 a.m. Weather.
ENGLISH REGIONS (as BBC-1 except)—6.0-6.45 p.m. Nationwide. Look North, Midlands Today, Look East, Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-west. 12.2 a.m. Regional News.
11 a.m. Play School.
11.20 Close.
7.30 p.m. News.
8.0 Canvas: The Fighting Temeraire by J. M. W. Turner.
8.15 Trial: "Peggy" by Susan Pleat.
9.5 Gardeners' World with Percy Throver.
9.20 The Two Ronnies with Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett.
10.5 Sitar-Master Closs: Imrat Khan.
10.50 News.
10.55 Late Night Line-up.

BBC-2

ANGLIA—4.15 p.m. Racing from York: 2.30, 3.40, 4.20. Anglia Newsroom. 4.35 Mel-O-Tones. 4.50 Captain Scarlett. 5.15 Magpie. 5.30 News. 6.0 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.0 Survival. 7.30 Film: "Go, Man, Go" with Danc Clark and Sidney Poitier. 9.0 For the Love of Ada. 9.30 This Week. 10.0 News. 10.30 Cinema. 11.0 The Avengers. 11.55 At the end of the Day.
CHANNEL—3.15 p.m. Racing from York: 4.0 Origami. 4.10 Puffin's Birthday Greetings. 4.20 Survival. 4.40 Joe 90. 5.15 Magpie. 5.30 News. 6.0 Channel News and Weather. 6.10 Channel Sports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.0 Film: Robbery Under Arms. 9.0 For the Love of Ada. 9.30 This Week. 10.0 News. 10.30 Cinema. 11.0 The Avengers. 11.55 At the end of the Day.

ITV

LONDON (Thames)
2.15 p.m. Racing from York: 2.30, 3.0, 3.30.
3.40 Origami.
3.55 Tea Break.
4.25 Peyton Place.
4.55 Woodbine—Animal Doctor.
5.20 Magpie.
5.50 News from ITN.
6.0 Today.
6.30 Crossroads.
6.55 The Lovers.
7.25 Film: "Petitiot Pirates" with Charlie Drake, Anne Heywood, Cecil Parker.
9.0 For the Love of Ada.
9.30 This Week: "Where Practicable and Reasonable."
10.0 News at Ten.
10.30 Cinema.
11.0 The Day Before Yesterday: "We Are the Masters."
12 midnight What the Papers Say.
12.15 a.m. In Their Own Right.

10.22 Cinema. 11.3 Seaway. 11.55 News and Weather in French.

MIDLANDS (ATV)—2.15 p.m. Racing from York: 2.30, 3.0, 3.30. 3.35 Tomorrow's Horoscope. 3.40 Women Today. 4.10 Family Affairs. 4.40 Anchored House. 4.55 Skipper. 5.15 Magpie. 5.30 News. 6.0 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.0 Film: "Fine Madness" with Sean Connery, John Woodard and Jane Seberg. 9.0 For the Love of Ada. 9.30 This Week. 10.0 News. 10.30 Cinema. 11.0 All Our Yesterdays. 11.30 The Communicators: The Small Screen.

NORTHERN (Granda)—2.15 p.m. Racing from York: 2.30, 3.0, 3.30. 3.35 News and Weather in French. 3.40 Origami. 3.55 Woodbine. 4.10 Magpie. 4.25 News. 4.30 News. 4.40 News. 4.50 News. 5.00 News. 5.10 News. 5.20 News. 5.30 News. 5.40 News. 5.50 News. 6.0 News. 6.10 News. 6.20 News. 6.30 News. 6.40 News. 6.50 News. 7.0 News. 7.10 News. 7.20 News. 7.30 News. 7.40 News. 7.50 News. 8.0 News. 8.10 News. 8.20 News. 8.30 News. 8.40 News. 8.50 News. 9.0 News. 9.10 News. 9.20 News. 9.30 News. 9.40 News. 9.50 News. 10.0 News. 10.10 News. 10.20 News. 10.30 News. 10.40 News. 10.50 News. 11.0 News. 11.10 News. 11.20 News. 11.30 News. 11.40 News. 11.50 News. 12.0 News. 12.10 News. 12.20 News. 12.30 News. 12.40 News. 12.50 News. 1.0 News. 1.10 News. 1.20 News. 1.30 News. 1.40 News. 1.50 News. 2.0 News. 2.10 News. 2.20 News. 2.30 News. 2.40 News. 2.50 News. 3.0 News. 3.10 News. 3.20 News. 3.30 News. 3.40 News. 3.50 News. 4.0 News. 4.10 News. 4.20 News. 4.30 News. 4.40 News. 4.50 News. 5.0 News. 5.10 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Refugees complicate Marxist problem

From MARTIN WOOLLACOTT: Calcutta, September 1

It is a foregone conclusion that Mrs. Gandhi's tour of West Bengal, which ended yesterday, will confirm her in the view that no elections can be held there next February, when most of the rest of India will be voting to elect new State Governments.

It is thought that West Bengal will remain under Presidential rule for the foreseeable future. The Centre will relax its hold only when at least some of the refugees have returned to East Bengal and when the Congress Party's machine in the State has been rebuilt and refurbished so as to stand a chance against the Marxist Communist Party, the most powerful single party in West Bengal.

Mrs. Gandhi does not wish to offend the Marxists in West Bengal until really necessary, as she showed yesterday by fielding questions about elections with a mild "don't know" at a press conference here.

She also said that the law and order situation in West Bengal showed some improvement and since that is the main reason advanced for continuing Presidential rule, this is a concession of sorts. But few here believe it to be more than a verbal concession.

The politicians, civil servants, army and police officers whom the Centre has drafted in, notably Mr. Siddhartha Ray, in effect Chief Minister, face a formidable task and one vital to the future of India.

The Bengali writer, Nirad C. Chaudhuri, once called Bengal the Balkans of India, but while that may be true in the cultural sense and an apt reference to Bengal's tradition of violence and communal politics, in economic terms West Bengal could better be described as the Ruhr of India.

The State has 21 per cent of national gross output and provides 33 per cent of the nation's coal. It has 33 per cent of India's steel capacity, 30 per cent of her engineering capa-

city, and a monopoly in jute production. It earns more foreign exchange for India than any other State.

Non-Communists trace the rot in West Bengal affairs back to the recession of the mid-sixties and the Left-wing United Front victory of 1967, which ended two decades of Congress Government. The Marxist Communist Party made most of the running in that inexperienced regime and increased its influence with the second United Front Government of 1969.

During that period the Marxists infiltrated the police and teaching unions, and expanded their general trade union base. Through its control of land distribution and taxation the party improved its organisation and support in the countryside, contributing to a breakdown of rural administration to the point of impotence in many districts.

Army horrified

The army, which is now supporting the police in some areas, has apparently been horrified at how far this process had gone. In some cases police were refusing to wear uniforms for fear of the consequences. Much of all this can ultimately be laid at the door of the previous Congress administration which had talked a great deal about land reform and rural progress, but did little about it.

The countryside of West Bengal, in terms of pressure of land, growth of landless peasants, and slow progress of rural electrification, medical, and educational services, is among the most backward and worst-served in India. The situation was made worse by the parallel eruption of the Naxalites.

In Calcutta and the urban-industrial belt around it, a spiral of labour trouble followed by industrial closures and the flight of capital leading to greater unemployment, began in the mid-sixties and has

continued at gathering speed since.

There are now at least two million unemployed in West Bengal, and one Western diplomat said: "Nobody would dream of putting money into the State if they thought the Marxist Communist Party was going to be back soon."

But that would be a serious possibility if elections were to be held. In the last elections the party won 111 of 280 seats. With its allies it holds 123, under 20 short of an absolute majority.

The Bangla Desh crisis galvanised the Centre into a new awareness of West Bengal's problem. A new corps of civil servants and top Congress men has arrived to join the police and army already here. A 16-point development programme for the State has been produced, and the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation, based in Calcutta, has been told to regard the problem as a priority.

Bengali officials need no reminding that the Marxist leadership and many of its supporters are drawn from the million refugees from East Bengal who came here over the years since partition and before the present influx occurred.

The Indian Government has so far successfully isolated the bulk of the refugees and has stopped pamphleteering by Left-wing parties in the camps. The refugees are, as yet, hardly ripe for politics. How long before they are open to it is a question: some here put it at 18 months to two years at the most.

It is highly unlikely that Mrs. Gandhi will relax her grip on the State. Her lieutenants face the tasks of coping with the refugees, reviving West Bengal's economy, and replacing the Marxists with a new administration, police, and unions. Given an independent Bangla Desh within the near future the prospects for success are good. Without it failure is almost inevitable.

German deadline extended

Montreal, September 1

Lufthansa, the West German airline, has been given until September 15 to withdraw its veto of a new transatlantic fares package.

The two-week extension was announced by a spokesman of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) a few hours before the expiry of the deadline at midnight tonight.

Lufthansa had been given until then to withdraw its rejection of a new fares structure, worked out at a seven-week conference here this summer by representatives of 40 international airlines.

Under IATA rules, decisions on prices have to be unanimous, and Lufthansa's sole dissenting vote on August 11 prevented the new lower fares and raised the spectre of an airline price war on the North Atlantic route.

Failure to accept the package unanimously would expose the airlines to an extremely competitive situation in which, instead of adhering to an agreed schedule of North Atlantic rates, they would set their own ticket prices.

Lufthansa has already indicated that it intends to maintain its rejection of the proposed fare structure, which it has described as confused and chaotic.

Among IATA's proposals, due to have taken effect next February, was one for a return excursion fare of \$230 (about £96) off-season and \$280 (£116) high-season from Frankfurt to New York.

But a Lufthansa spokesman has said: "When the current agreement expires in February, 1972, we plan to offer fares \$10 to \$30 (about £4 to £12) under these figures."

Presidents of the 24 airlines which fly the North Atlantic are expected to meet in Geneva next week to review the situation caused by Lufthansa's intransigence. —Reuter.

Bakr 'shot in assassination attempt'

By ANTHONY McDERMOTT

President Ahmed Hassan Bakr, of Iraq, was hit by two bullets in his left arm and shoulder in a recent unsuccessful assassination attempt by an army officer according to the pro-Egyptian Beirut newspaper, "Al-Muharrir," yesterday.

In a dispute dated Baghdad and quoting reliable Iraqi sources, it said the attempt took place on August 26 at a garden party at the republican palace to mark the graduation of cadets from the military academy. The report said that immediately after the shooting, the lights were extinguished and the officer escaped in a civilian car waiting outside.

"Al-Muharrir" said the officer was found dead the next day in a Baghdad suburb with several bullets in his head and neck. The officer's identity was not disclosed and about 500 officers have reportedly been detained while the Iraqi authorities make an investigation.

The accuracy of the report is hard to gauge. The newspaper's political complexion makes it probable that the reports from Iraq would be hostile. Egypt's relations with Iraq are currently cool. A previous report by "Al-Muharrir" on August 9 that the regime's strong man, Saddam Hussein, had been arrested for Iraq's premature recognition of the failed Communist coup in Sudan was strongly denied by Iraqi officials — probably correctly.

President Bakr is known to suffer from various ailments. On August 30, Baghdad radio said he had entered hospital because he was "indisposed" but that his health was "good."

In the report of the attempted assassination, "Al-Muharrir" said President Bakr had had an emergency operation for the removal of the bullet.

Against this must be set the occupational hazard of taking part in Iraqi politics — assassination. The last politician of note to be assassinated was the former Vice-



President Bakr

President, Hardan Takriti, in Kuwait last March. In addition, the regime has limited popular support among the Iraqi people and the armed forces. There were reports at the end of July of the arrest of 45 army and air force officers, among them a former air force commander, Air Marshal Hassan Hayari, after a meeting in the north.

If, in fact, the attempt on President Bakr's life represents a struggle for political power, there have not been as yet any signs of change in the present regime.

In Beirut, Iraqi Embassy sources denied the attempted assassination report. The sources said the report was completely unfounded.

Dog days over

Reykjavik's dog owners left the city yesterday with their pets or hid them in their homes after a city council ban of 1924 was revived forbidding dogs to be kept in the capital. The dogs—at least 500 of them—were said to pose a health risk.

Shipping firms attacked

From our Correspondent

Wellington, September 1

A British Conference lines' decision to scrap container for New Zealand trade will be the beginning of the end of British dominance of shipping to and from New Zealand, the Minister of Transport, Mr. R. D. Muldoon, said yesterday.

Muldoon described the conference lines' pull-out as one of the most dismally inept moves of poor public relations in recent times.

The lines gave the New Zealand Government two days' notice that they were scrapping container plans because they would not be profitable enough. The decision cost New Zealand millions of dollars in capital outlay it could be wasted, and a good will to the British owners that in the long run will be equally important.

Muldoon told the annual conference of the New Zealand Growers' Federation: a lesson which the ship-owners must learn is that you do not retain a monopoly if you do not retain a monopoly in your own loading all the costs of own inefficiency and poor industrial relations on New Zealand producer."

He said that last year, after consultation and notice, the Shipping Board had decided not to use British Conference lines as carriers of export fruit and had had a much cheaper and more efficient service. The Board had a lesson for New Zealand and an equally important lesson for Britain.

Muldoon said that if the Shipping Board had not decided about loading all the costs of inefficiency and poor industrial relations on the New Zealand producer would apply the whole of British management, and not just the shipping part, to more competition than ever before. It would be a case of "sink or swim." This was why he believed entry to be in the best long-term interests.

Ferry's mate leaves Italy

Brindisi, September 1

Court officials went on board the burnt-out Greek ferry Heleanna today to question members of the crew, including the master, Captain Demetrios Antypas, about the fire that cost 24 lives.

They said that one witness, the chief mate of the Heleanna, left hospital without permission and returned to Greece shortly before being summoned to an interrogation.

Captain Antypas, who was arrested on Sunday on another ferry shortly before she sailed for Greece, has formally appealed for provisional liberty. He is accused of multiple manslaughter and dereliction of duty.

The officials included the deputy public prosecutor of Brindisi, Dr. Perrone, who is leading an Italian judicial inquiry into the disaster. He spent more than five hours yesterday interrogating Captain Antypas.

The master told Dr. Perrone that he was among the last to leave the vessel after ensuring that all children had been placed in lifeboats, sources said.

He pointed out no children were among the dead.

In spite of allegations by several passengers that Captain Antypas was in one of the first lifeboats to leave the Heleanna, he insisted that he stayed until the end, and then swam to a Yugoslav ship, whose skipper confirmed picking him up.

He said he was authorised to carry about 1,000 passengers during the height of the tourist season rather than the total of 820 passengers and crew allowed by the ship's safety certificate issued by the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine.

Captain Antypas said his ship carried lifeboats, rafts, and inflatable craft sufficient for 1,500 people, in addition to life-jackets. The boats and life-jackets, he said, had been properly launched except three, which were left behind because passengers panicked.

Today's visit to the ferry was intended to clarify whether any passengers had failed to escape and how the fire began. The Brindisi port authority has the names of three people feared missing. — UPI and Reuter.

Life sentences for Communist's death

From INDER MALHOTRA: Bombay, September 1

Seven young members of Shiva Sena, a fascist organisation in Bombay, were sentenced here today to life imprisonment for murdering a Communist legislator, Mr. Krishna Desai, 15 months ago.

The judge rejected a defence plea that the seven men had been accused of Desai's murder in order to frame Shiva Sena. The judge held that Sena had become hostile to the murdered man because Desai had started organising a secular and progressive youth association designed to wean Bombay's

youth from Shiva Sena influence. Before he was murdered, he and his lieutenants were repeatedly threatened by Shiva Sena activists. On the evening of his murder, Desai was surrounded by two armed groups and was stabbed to death.

In a bye-election to Maharashtra State Assembly soon after Desai's death, his widow was defeated by a Shiva Sena candidate although she was sponsored jointly by the ruling Congress Party and the Communist Party. In a subsequent election to Parliament, however, Shiva Sena suffered a humiliating defeat.

Rebels without a revolt

From JOHN O'CALLAGHAN: Manila, September 1

An atmosphere of air-conditioned tension the Philippine Supreme Court today began to hear pleas of political lines for release, bail, or speedy justice. Before Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion and other judges, lawyers representing seven of more than one hundred detained

rebellion argued that President Marcos's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus was unconstitutional, inappropriate, and unnecessary.

Under the Reichstag fire, the problems of President Lincoln in 1861, and an affair of one Milligan in 1861. The case of the five lights in seventeenth-century Britain came into it and to

create a tricky point from the court's impasse. From this comic range of

reference emerged the simple proposition that President Marcos was wrong to take emergency powers because self-evidently eight days later no insurrection or rebellion has manifested itself.

If, as President Marcos claims, there is a well-advanced plot to overthrow the State then it is not time, said the lawyers, that some details were announced and some guilty men accused.

Salient points raised by lawyers were that when it speaks to the world outside, the Philippine Government claims that guerrilla activity has almost stopped but for home consumption that "Huk" and the New People's Army are continuing threats in a war that has been going on since 1946.

From the questions they put the Supreme Court judges seem concerned about the propriety of the legislature probing too deeply into the executive's

domain and worried that President Marcos may have good grounds for taking emergency powers — "must a revolution actually have broken out before any action can be taken against it?"

There is at least one powerful precedent in the defence's favour — when internment was invoked in 1950 the rebel Communist Huk were at Manila's gates. But even the concession to the climate of no wigs and open-necked shirts does not stop simple issues being

strangled. The Philippines have introduced one major boon to human endurance — lawyers here speak from a rostrum with a large light-up panel operated by the clerk which reads TIME IS UP.

About 350 student demonstrators picked the court demanding that the suspension of habeas corpus be lifted.



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HOME AND OVERSEAS

US opponents of school integration take fresh heart

From RICHARD SCOTT: Washington, September 1

The busing of children for the purpose of ending racial segregation in schools has become a national political issue with the start of the new school year. It need not have done so; that it is primarily President Nixon's fault. American children in rural areas have traditionally been taken by bus to school — often quite long distances. In those areas of the country in which, over the years, all-white or all-black communities have grown up there is no practical way to integrate the school system except by the busing of some black children to previously all-white schools and vice versa. So, when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 came into effect, making segregation illegal, it inevitably meant an extension of the school busing practice.

Holiday project at risk

From our Correspondent

Madrid, September 1
Spain's biggest tourist development — the Torre Molinos on the Mediterranean — is threatened with demolition because of a Supreme Court decision in Madrid.

The Playa Mar Corporation, which has built nine 14-storey apartment blocks in Torre Molinos, has been ordered to pull down seven of the buildings, on the grounds that they contravened planning regulations.

The court order involved 300 apartments, each valued between £5,000 and £13,000, and will probably be extended to another 300 luxury flats. Many of these are owned by foreigners.

The Playa Mar project was launched by a Spanish company, El Cid, but foreign financial interests are also involved, including an American firm and investors Overseas Services, founded by Mr. Bernie Cornfield, which has monetary troubles of its own.

Six British own apartments in the seaside complex, as well as 53 Germans, 43 Americans, and many other nationalities including, surprisingly, 13 Congolese. If, and it is still a big if, this lush, air-conditioned holiday centre, with its swimming pool and tennis courts, is blown up in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling, the private owners of the apartments are entitled to handsome compensation from the Malaga city council, which originally granted building permission.

The whole issue started when a local Spanish resident, who lives in a cottage behind the new buildings, complained that the skyscrapers blocked his view of the sea. Such rights are protected by Spanish law. If the Playa Mar buildings are demolished, it is estimated that the Malaga authorities will have to pay over £2 million in reparations. However, a lawyer representing the council suggested today that a solution might be found by paying a large sum in compensation to the man who lost his view of the sea.

In fact, the Supreme Court, in handing down its decision, provided a potential face-saver. In the judgement, it was stated that the demolition should not be carried out "if the public interest is prejudiced". There is a long way to go before the dynamite charges are detonated. Eviction notices have to be served on all the tenants, and the legal complications could easily drag on for several years.

But the Playa Mar issue has provided a healthy warning to those companies, Spanish and foreign, who have in the past destroyed the natural beauties of the Spanish coast by irresponsible and unplanned development.

French call off tests

From NESTA ROBERTS

Paris, September 1

THERE will be no further French nuclear explosions in the Pacific this year, M. Debre, Defence Minister, told the Cabinet today that experiments carried out between June 3-August 14, had "amply fulfilled the hopes of the technicians".

In the foreseeable future France would have the megatonne hermo nuclear charges intended to replace the heads of the strategic forces' ballistic missiles. They are said to be 50 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.

After the meeting the Government spokesman, M. Leo Hamon replying to a question, said that France intended to pursue her defence effort and would organise her experiments in accordance with that effort.

Regarding the protest which the recent tests brought from Peru, M. Hamon said that President Pompidou had received a letter from the Peruvian President, and that his reply would be made public during the next few days.

Indian appeal on air space

The Hague, September 1

The International Court of Justice said today that India is challenging Pakistan's right to appeal to the International Civil Aviation Organisation against India's refusal to allow Pakistani aircraft to fly over her territory.

India had filed an application instituting proceedings against Pakistan. It said the case was over whether the ICAO Council has jurisdiction to deal with Pakistan's complaint against India's ban.

Since February, after Kashmiri "freedom fighters" hijacked an Indian airliner to Pakistan, Pakistani aircraft flying between the two wings of the country have been forced to make a detour by way of Ceylon to avoid the ban.

India claims that the agreement, allowing each country's aircraft to overfly the others territory, was suspended during hostilities between them in August and September, 1965, and was never revived.

Reuter.



Five "Little Angels" flew into London yesterday with the gift of a doll for Mr. Heath. They are members of the Little Angels National Folk Ballet of Korea. The group first met the Prime Minister in the White House in Washington when its members gave a "command performance" before President Nixon and Mr. Heath who happened to be present. Mr. Heath then had expressed his hope that they would come to Britain. At Heathrow Airport London yesterday Jung Hee Oh, aged 10, held the doll aloft and said: "We have come to see Mr. Heath." The Little Angels Ballet opens at Sadler's Wells on Monday

Court clinches the one-man election

Saigon, September 1

South Vietnam's Presidential election tonight became a referendum for President Thieu.

A Government announcement over Saigon radio said the Supreme Court had today acknowledged the withdrawal of Vice-President Ky from the race and that Mr. Thieu would run alone for office. The vote would be on October 3, as planned.

Vice-President Ky and the former Head of State, General Minh, withdrew from the race last month. Although Ky's withdrawal was announced after the deadline and he was therefore officially still on the ballot until this evening, a Government spokesman said tonight that his name and that of his running-mate, Mr. Truong Vinh Le, would not now appear on the ballot.

The campaign for the Presidency starts tomorrow and President Thieu is expected to appear on television soon.

Interception

At least 12 students and five riot police were injured during the funeral procession for a Buddhist monk who died of meningitis at an army training camp. The police had intercepted the funeral procession to confiscate anti-Government placards being paraded by the students.

The youth who was cremated tonight was one of three who died of meningitis at Quang Trung military training centre. Several student leaders have claimed their deaths were caused by poor health facilities at the centre and they alleged Government indifference.

Earlier on the steps of the National Assembly, Nguyen Duc Dan, an Opposition deputy who lost his seat in the Lower House elections on Sunday, doused

himself with petrol and threatened to set himself on fire. He was restrained by friends who carried him into the building.

Hella Pick writes: Switzerland has decided to recognise North Vietnam. This has come after many years of hesitation. It may reflect the belief that a new Geneva Conference on Indochina is no longer quite the remote possibility that it has seemed in the past.

No explanation

Switzerland has long had diplomatic relations with Peking but it could not hope to play host to another Indochina conference without first recognising North Vietnam. In 1968 the Swiss refusal to open diplomatic relations with Hanoi certainly contributed to the decision to hold the Vietnam peace talks in Paris rather than in Geneva.

The Swiss authorities in Bern have given no official explanation of their gesture towards Hanoi now. However, there is no doubt that other factors besides the prospects for an Indochina conference have influenced their judgment.

The Swiss have always had loose contact with Hanoi and for some time they have been involved, mainly at Washington, in the efforts to free US prisoners of war. The diplomatic recognition of North Vietnam may help them in that task.

Equally important, the Swiss are realists, and believe the Vietnam war is painfully trying to come to an end. Both Washington and Hanoi may feel that the Swiss brand of neutralism offers opportunities for useful work, particularly for neutral supervision in bringing about a ceasefire.

Leader comment, page 10

My Lai soldier 'told of inquiry'

Fl. Meade (Md.), September 1

One of the soldiers who participated in the My Lai raid testified today that he was told afterwards by Captain Medina that an investigation was under way about what happened, and that there should be no discussion of the incident.

Gregory T. Olsen, aged 22, now a policeman in Portland, Oregon, made the statement at the court-martial of Colonel Oran Henderson, accused of failing to investigate properly the civilian slayings at My Lai on March 16, 1968.

Mr. Olsen, for the prosecution, said he saw 12 to 24 bodies "piled up on each other" in a ditch on the eastern edge of the hamlet.

He saw Sergeant David Mitchell, previously acquitted of charges concerning the massacre, standing over the ditch and firing into it.

Asked if he was questioned about what he saw when he returned to the operations centre, Mr. Olsen said that Captain Medina, commander of the army company involved in the sweep, told him of the investigation.

"I was doing exactly what I thought was the best thing to do," he said. "We were told not to talk among ourselves, write home about it, and to talk only with investigators." — UPI.

NUT is refused school inquiry

Mrs Thatcher is opposed at present to a full-scale inquiry, as sought by the NUT, into working conditions in schools. Replying to the recent union report on 500 selected schools, the Education Secretary again emphasises the importance of concentrating available resources on primary schools. She would "be reluctant" to divert them, she says.

She argues that the NUT's limited survey does not provide a statistically valid picture of school conditions generally. "The 500 schools covered were presumably among the worst in the country and it is not, therefore, surprising that the premises were deficient in so many respects." On the other hand Mrs Thatcher says that her priority programme for primary school improvement will in time mean a genuine raising of standards.

Mr. Fred Jarvis, NUT deputy general secretary, replied yesterday. The basic purpose of our investigation was in response to a request last autumn to furnish the Secretary of State with evidence of the extent to which her own school building regulations are not being observed. We have said that our evidence was so disturbing as to warrant a full-scale inquiry.

"We do not believe this would involve a diversion of resources as Mrs Thatcher suggests. In any case it is surely her responsibility to find out to what extent her department's regulations are not being observed."

The Minister appeared to equate the problem of bad working conditions and the non-observance of regulations with the problem of school buildings. This was a mistake. There was evidence that schools built more recently were affected, too.

Big increase in young mental sick

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

The proportion of boys under 15 in mental hospital has almost trebled since 1954, and the proportion girls the same age has more than doubled, says a report by the Department of Health and Social Security, published today.

The statistics for 1969 show that the number of patients per 1,000 population fell from the end of 1961 to the end of 1969 by 31 per cent, but the number of admissions rose by about 150 per cent. Re-admissions represented 40 per cent of total admissions in 1954 and 50 per cent in 1969. Of patients discharged in 1969 84 per cent had been in hospital for less than three months, compared with 66 per cent in 1954.

"Striking changes" in the pattern of hospitalisation are mentioned in the report. The first is the large increase in the number of young people in hospital between 1954 and 1969. The proportion of boys aged under 15 almost trebled and the proportion of girls of that age group more than doubled. This change is doubtless a reflection of the greatly increased provision of beds allocated to child and adolescent psychiatry... the number of children's beds rose from 354 in 1954 to 776 in 1969, and the number of children's units from 18 to 30.

The only other age group which showed an increase was that over 74. There was a 22 per cent increase for men and a 12 per cent increase for women. Reductions were shown in the number of patients between 15 and 64 and these were particularly marked between 25 to 44. Only about half as many people aged 25 to 34 were in hospital at the end of 1969 as at the end of 1954.

The proportion of long-term patients is encouraging. Number fell from 115,231 in 1954 to 75,589 — 76 per cent and 66 per cent of the total number in-patients at the end of 1969 respectively. Number of long-term patients per 1,000 of the national population fell from 2.80 to 1.1.

There were proportionally more long-term male patients both years except over, when the proportions were equal.

"Possibly the most outstanding change between 1954 and 1969 was the great fall in the proportion of young people in hospital who had been there two years or more," the report says. "For males aged under the fall was from 34.6 per cent to 12.6 per cent and for females of that age from 33.8 per cent to 6.3 per cent."

The three regions which the smallest number of patients per 1,000 population at the end of 1954 were Shetland, Newcastle, and Oxford, in order. The three regions most in-patients were S. western, Leeds, and Liver in that order. At the end of 1969, Oxford had the lowest number of in-patients, followed by Shetland and then by Chester. The regions with the highest number of in-patients at the end of 1969 were South-west and Leeds — the same two in 1954 but with a change in order.

Co-ed schools 'a force for peace'

A book published today suggests that coeducational schools could be a force for peace. It also contends that mixed schools have fewer bullies than at boys-only schools, and the girls are less spiteful.

The author, R. R. Dale, Reader in Education at the University of Wales, Swansea, calls for research into the possible effect of mixed schooling in reducing over-aggressive attitudes of the male in the international field.

"Under Stalin, a few years before the Second World War, the Russians changed from a largely coeducational system of schooling to one which was, where possible, single sex, because they believed it easier to inculcate a militaristic spirit into their boys in this way. The Nazis also stressed single-sex education for similar reasons."

Summing up the findings of his research on bullying, Mr. Dale says: "There is no doubt about the result: whereas almost half of the ex-pupils of boys' schools estimated that bullying in them was 'frequent' or 'very frequent', this was reduced to little more than one-fifth when they estimated for their coeducational schools."

Comments on girls' schools from ex-pupils indicated: "In any girls' school, quarrels and backbiting take place, but not so frequently in the co-ed because it was frowned on by the boys."

Most replies indicated that there was also a healthier attitude towards sex. At all-girls schools, one ex-pupil said, "there was a general tendency to great excitement the moment almost anyone in trousers appeared." A boy who had been at both types of school said there was "less depraved sex talk among the boys" at the co-ed. "The attitude is far healthier altogether."

"Mixed or single sex school?" Vol. II. R. R. Dale, Routledge and Kegan Paul, £5.25.

Mr. Carr, Secretary for Employment, has appointed Professor John Wood as chairman of the new panel of teachers employed in technical colleges and further education was announced yesterday.

Professor Wood, who holds the Edward Bramley Chair of Law at Sheffield University, was chairman of the courts inquiry into the Pilkington dispute in 1970 and the Standard-Triumph dispute in 1969.

Sir Andrew Crichton, the nominee of the management side of the Burnham Further Education Committee, is a member of the new panel of the Industrial Court.

Mr. H. D. Hughes, Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford, was nominated by the teachers. He is a member of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal, and has been a member of two previous arbitral bodies on teachers' pay.

"The dispute was referred to arbitration last month after the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, which represents about 37,000 teachers, had rejected a 10 per cent offer in reply to their £52 million claim."

Paralysed MP back to Commons

Six months after breaking his back in a riding accident, Lord Dalkeith, who is 47, is returning to the Commons in a wheelchair. He is Conservative MP for Edinburgh North.

Lord Dalkeith, who is paralysed from the waist down, is being discharged from the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, tomorrow, two months ahead of his doctor's schedule. With four paraplegics in the House of Lords, facilities already exist for wheelchair access to Parliament.

A rolling dose of fresh air

Air pollution could be reduced by a new device, it is claimed, which reduces fuel consumption by 75 per cent.

The device, which is recommended to bus and vehicle manufacturers, has been tested by a firm in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The firm said the device, which reduces fuel consumption by 75 per cent, saves fuel.

Mr. Ken Burton, a direct bus company said, "It would cost rather too much to purchase these modifications individually for a large fleet. It will be far cheaper for manufacturers to adopt the device and it would make sizeable contribution to the reduction of pollution in this country."

The device was invented by Mr. Jim Butler, of Wal Chase, Southampton. It is a device which is a 75 per cent of fuel pollution is only a conservative estimate. It is aimed at worst areas of air pollution towns and cities — caused by cars crawling along or idling at a standstill. The device can be used on any vehicle when vehicles are going at 10 mph or less, sufficient to use up the fumes."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS

Announcements, submitted by the Registrar General, and published in this column, are sent to the Registrar General, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2, on the day of the event. Births, marriages and deaths are published in this column. Births, marriages and deaths are published in this column.

BIRTHS
CRITCHLEY—On August 30, 1971, at 10, St. John's Road, London, W.C.1, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Critchley.

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Foreign terrorist fears

Mexico City, September 1

President Echeverria gave a warning to Mexico today that "originating abroad" are trying to overthrow his nine-month-old Government.

In his first report to the Congress, President Echeverria said a recent series of armed robberies in Mexico City and elsewhere "appears to correspond to a deliberate plan to alter the social peace."

"The institutions of public security," he added, "have apprehended the criminals in several cases and have uncovered their frequent links to clandestine movements, originating abroad, and about whose existence and eventual dangers I am obliged to clearly warn the country."

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The President referred to the arrest in March of 10 Mexicans allegedly trained in North Korea "to commit crimes in our country and to subvert the constitutional order." He said it was proven they had installed

centres to teach techniques of sabotage and terrorism. Earlier this summer Mexico City police arrested members of an alleged terrorist cell. Its members said they were committing "expropriations" in the capital to finance guerrilla movements in the state of Guerrero.

Authorities in the northern industrial centre of Monterrey have also reported increasing contact with what they describe as urban terror organisations. — UPI.

PERSONAL

THE CHARGE FOR Announcements in the Personal Column is 3s. per line (including two lines). Your copy should be sent to the Editor, The Guardian, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2, by 10.30 a.m. on the day before publication. The minimum charge is 10s. per line.

MEET SOMEONE through Dateline. Britain's most successful computer dating service. No obligation. No charge. Write to: Dateline, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2, by 10.30 a.m. on the day before publication.

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HOME NEWS

Tighter safety rules for box bridges

by DENNIS BARKER

JOHN TERRY was most concerned yesterday that the large vase of vases on his desk should be misconstrued. "These are not in the nature of a rag parlour," said the director of the National Film Finance Corporation. "They are there to add gaiety to the scene."

necessary point to make the very beginning of the production of last year's C report and accounts, and to carry on to form a committee for the NFFC and for the British film industry, too.

Nicholas Ridley, Under-Secretary, Industry, has said that the only way to carry on to form a committee of private finance that the Government give only another £1 million of the £34 million set, and this only if £3 million is forthcoming from the sources.

his year's accounts unfortunately lend credence to the duck theory by revealing a net loss of nearly £1,000—almost double the average since the C started acting as a and slaving to British making after the war.

Terry admitted that years of selection had been made but said these were in a highly speculative business—and that the C's record of three profitable films out of 10 was better than the whole industry's record of one in

he point was that recent years' very limited number of subjects had been able to the NFFC, use most of the projects had some autonomy to the major US panics.

ow the NFFC has opted that (a Hobson's choice) the last throw is in private consortium, will be enough men in the prepared to advance

cy (in multiples of 100 only) to finance a programme of films which will not be able to pick choose for themselves but have to support en bloc? I am reasonably hopeful," Terry said.

prospectus should be in a fortnight. It will be able to indicate that, not can the NFFC draw on own skills and experience also to some extent on the of EMI and British Lion, are already producing in collaboration with the

Mr Terry went on: "I think Bryan Forbes programme films at Eelstree has been ified by the success of les of Beatrix Potter, re a lot of people would been very hesitant in viding finance. But he a gamble and it has e off in a very big way. it is the sort of success want."

by the end of the year, the PC should be able to say that it has formed a ble consortium or that it simply not possible. One gestion will be that synds of small investors could formed, able to produce 000 between them. Artists d also act as financiers.

Elaborating on its eated reform of payments stars, the NFFC says that film stars sought a share of its instead of demanding astronomical fees. Britain's n industry could quickly pand. "Here the major inution must be made by a talent, which has for too e been forced to seek the sum cash fees obtain- e owing to the remoteness profits.

Tighter safety rules for box bridges

Recommendations for increasing safety rules affecting the construction of steel box-girder bridges have been accepted by Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary for the Environment. They will be implemented immediately.

The seven recommendations were made in an interim report of the Merrison Committee on the design and method of construction and steel box-girder bridges. The inquiry was set up after bridges collapsed during construction in Melbourn, Australia, and Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.

The recommendations are:

1. The engineer's permanent design should be checked by an independent engineer, both for the design concept and the method of analysis and a certificate issued. The independent engineer should have experience and qualifications appropriate to the size and complexity of the design.

2. The checking of stresses in the structure during building should be in accordance with the rules set down by the committee and already circulated to engineering offices.

3. In cantilever construction, deflections should be accurately measured at regular intervals at a time of day when the temperature can most easily be related to that assumed in the design calculations. If the disparity between the measured and calculated deflections exceeds the permitted tolerance defined by the engineer, building should stop.

4. The employer should require the engineer to satisfy him on the qualifications and experience of the site staff and that there are enough.

5. Any power and authority delegated to the resident engineer should be put in writing to the contractor.

6. A complete schedule of all working tolerances and imperfections which may be permitted during fabrication and building should be made known by the engineer to all concerned in existing contracts and specified for future contracts and should not exceed the committee's recommendations.

7. Where the superstructure

Census fear of nurses rejected

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday backed a survey of former nurses, which uses information collected in the recent census. Women who identified themselves as ex-nurses on census forms are reported to have complained that the survey breaks the Registrar-General's pledge that census information would be kept secret.

The college said the survey could prove "useful and valuable." It had received no complaints from former nurses questioned by interviewers for the Office of Censuses and Surveys.

'Mafia' libel case appeal

Associated Leisure, Ltd., Britain's largest dealer in amusement and vending machines, whose libel action last July over a "Daily Mail" article was dismissed, has given notice of appeal.

The company sued Associated Newspapers, Ltd., complaining that an article published in 1968 wrongly suggested that they had been controlled by the Mafia. The jury found that the words complained of were true.

application follows an increase of 8 per cent to 11 per cent on home routes which came into effect in April.

The board originally rejected that application, but its decision was overruled on appeal to the Department of Trade and Industry. Mr Scarlett yesterday blamed inflation for the appli-

the withdrawal to certain improvements in standards on economy services. Carrying t-class passengers on domestic routes was not an nomic position.

The first-class passenger gets re than 5 pence more in the tourist passenger he pays half as much again, also gets free drinks. To draw the first-class facility not so much a saving as a free of increased revenue.

The board was hearing by nine lines, headed by BEA and the best independent, Caledonian-A. BEA, which last week said it wanted cut-price fares o Europe, was applying for per cent increases on home routes. On the trunk routes, between London and Glasgow, East and Edinburgh—it wants per cent on November 1, followed by a further 3 per cent April 1 next year. The other firms.

Airline name



THIS Blériot Monoplane Type XI (the cross-channel) is to be sold at Christie's on September 30. It is the only known example of the aircraft still flying regularly and is similar to the one in which Louis Blériot made his flight in 1909. The one to be sold was built a year later. It is fully restored, but retains most of its original woodwork.

Also in the sale is the comprehensive collection of aeronautics made up by William Appleby, who 50 years ago first advertised in a home-grown poster for "Books on Flying Machines". As a boy he worked at the Gosforth Aircraft works of Armstrong-Whitworth, at a penny an hour, but with his brother he set out to collect everything that was printed in newspapers, periodicals, and books relating to the embryo art of flying.

He began to create what he then called "The Encyclopedia of the World's Aircraft."

Woman is charged with impeding Sewell arrest

A second woman was last night charged with impeding the arrest of Frederick Joseph Sewell. She is Mrs Barbara Palmer (33), of Orpington, Kent.

Sewell is wanted for questioning in connection with the killing of a police officer at Blackpool. Mrs Palmer was taken to a Murder Squad office in London on Tuesday night. She was yesterday driven to Blackpool and charged, and will appear in court today.

Mrs Irene Jermain, who was to have married Sewell on Tuesday, also appeared in court at Blackpool yesterday, charged with aiding his escape by driv-

ing him out of the town in the boot of a car.

In the same court, Eugene Francis Kerrigan (26), of Colliers Wood, London, was further remanded in custody until September 8 charged with impeding Sewell's arrest. He is accused of supplying Sewell with a suitcase of clothing and collecting money on his behalf with intent to impede the apprehension of the prosecution of Sewell.

The charge alleges that Kerrigan did this "after Sewell had murdered Gerald Irving Richardson knowing or believ-

ing that Sewell had committed the offence." The charge against Mrs Jermain is framed in similar terms.

Also at Blackpool, Charles Henry Hayes (43), of Aryle Street, King's Cross, London, was further remanded in custody until September 3, charged with robbing Joseph Lammond of watches and rings at Blackpool.

The search for Sewell was still focused on London last night.

Police are also searching for a safe deposit containing £50,000 worth of jewels, believed to belong to Sewell.

Six on remand on plot charges

Four men and two women, charged with conspiracy to cause explosions likely to endanger life, were remanded in custody until September 8 at Clerkenwell yesterday.

They were James Greenfield (23), unemployed; A n n a Mendelson (23), unemployed; John Buchanan (24), a translator; and Hillary Anne Creek (22), all of Amhurst Road, Hackney, London; James Stuart Christie (25), labourer, of Gilbert Place, Bloomsbury; and Christopher Bott (24), youth leader, of Hungerford Road, Holloway, London.

All were charged that on or before August 20 they unlawfully and maliciously conspired to cause by an explosive substance explosions in the United Kingdom of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property, contrary to Section 3 of the Explosives Substances Act 1883.

Greenfield and Mendelson are also charged that between February 12 and May 11 they conspired with Wolf Seebert, Christopher Bott, Martin Housden, Peter Truman, Ian Donald Purdie, Jack Prescott, Christine Anne Haisell, Rosemary Fiore and other persons unknown to cheat and defraud.



First-class to go in spring

British European Airways' decision to withdraw its first-class service on home routes probably take effect in April.

The Board was told this morning yesterday by Mr Ernest Scarlett, the airline's chief affairs manager.

Mr Scarlett said: "We hope the withdrawal to certain improvements in standards on economy services. Carrying t-class passengers on domestic routes was not an nomic position.

The first-class passenger gets re than 5 pence more in the tourist passenger he pays half as much again, also gets free drinks. To draw the first-class facility not so much a saving as a free of increased revenue.

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Airline name

You call it Singapore. We call it Birdland.

MSA's Singaporean airline can make that claim) is at the crossroads of the exotic East. Here it all begins. A land of beauty that is the home of Malaysia-Singapore Airlines; a land exemplified by a feminine charm as profuse and beautiful as its orchids.

Birdland begins at Heathrow the moment you step aboard an MSA Boeing 707 for one of the fastest flights there is to Singapore, the East and Australia.

You're on one of our three flights a week leaving at the sensible hour of 1.10 in the afternoon, and shortly after lunch the next day you are in Singapore.

Your aircraft is commanded by a pilot who has carried out more than 10,000 landings on MSA jets (the airline with 24 years of scheduled operations to its credit). You experience our personalised in-flight music system; enjoy the service, charm and attention of our beautiful stewardesses (who speak six languages); eat superbly and sleep peacefully.

If you're travelling first class, you can discuss business in private in our Sky Lounge. Soon you're in Birdland—Singapore, your destination or the ideal stopover and duty-free shopover.

When travelling on, there is no need to change airlines. MSA has more flights to more places in the East than any other

airline flying out of London and Europe. Places like Bali, Bangkok, Brunei, Colombo, Djakarta, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Madras, Manila, Medan, Taipei and Tokyo.

Or on to Australia with frequent flights to Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. See your travel agent about flying to Birdland on the MSA bird.

For reservations, contact your Travel Agent or MSA, 136 Regent Street, London W1. Telephone: 01-734 5531/4777.

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Serving over 50 centres in Europe, the East and Australia. In association with Air India, BOAC and QANTAS.



Pal Gabor's "Horizon"

Film festival news from DEREK MALCOLM

Dearth in Venice

the word in anything like its widest sense.

"Pratidwandi" tries to correct this latter fault. A young man, middle-class and educated, has to leave medical school on the death of his father, and find a job in Calcutta. He goes in front of various boards but there meets and rejects the dead hand of Indian bureaucracy. In spite of his conventional nature he follows his younger brother into the camp of those determined to change society, perhaps violently.

Ray uses a lyrical flashback technique for scenes of the boy's early and more hopeful childhood, and this does not always work out too well. But there are some superb passages, such as when the boy finally goes berserk after waiting with dozens of others for hours to be interviewed. And as always both the writing (his own) and the direction have that elusive quality of looking as deeply under the surface of things as almost anyone.

Pal Gabor's "Horizon," which I am glad to say has been snapped up by the Academy, deals with the same sort of problems from a different angle. Gabor, a Hungarian whose first feature was also shown at Venice but never reached England, has this time done much better with his story of a rebellious hospital messenger boy who wants

to go his own way, but finds it blocked at every turn. The film is made with a rare mixture of realism and poetry that I can only describe as totally alien to the usual run of latterday East European products.

The boy's relationship with authority. "We died for you during the war." "I didn't ask you to," with his chain-smoking mother, with his girlfriend and another young lady he picks up on spec are beautifully observed. As an example of a movie about the inevitable generation gap it is excellently balanced and sane, right down to the sequence where the boy watches, eyes popping, at a local cinema.

It has always astonished me how little Olmi is regarded in England — by the public, that is. His latest movie, "During the Summer," shows him once again to be a master director, even when dealing with unpromising looking material as Richard Roud wrote in the Guardian last week. His colour photography alone is worth going to see in this odd tale about an eccentric professor who hands out home-made titles for small amounts of money, thus laying himself open to charges of petty fraud.

No less than five British films adorn the programme, which opened with

Andrew Sinclair's "Under Milk Wood," a static if starry version of the Dylan Thomas radio play which persists in echoing words with pictures lest we fail to understand them. With Burton, Taylor, O'Toole and Fishguard rearguard, Michael Winner's "The Nightcomers," in which he and Michael Hastings imagine just why the children of "Turn of the Screw" are in league from beyond the grave, resembles nothing so much as an emasculated Hammer movie, with Quint (Marlon Brando) performing sado-masochistic tricks in bed with poor Miss Jessel (Stephanie Beacham). It is not well enough written and is patchily put together in spite of several good performances and a mercurial absence of Mr Winner's favourite technical parlour tricks.

A strong cable from the Catholic Central Office was slapped on Mr Roud's desk the morning after the performance of Russell's "The Devils." The public, however, thoroughly enjoyed it, though police threats prevented the usual open air showing, presumably in case of environmental pollution. One Italian critic wrote that it was more like de Sade than Hustler — the sort of de Sade you read with one hand. Further comment unnecessary.

Denis Hoppers' "The Last Movie," a sort of Pirandellian "Lonesome Cowboy" was preceded by a remark of unprecedented bathos from the director which summed up the whole disaster perfectly. "In this long trip that is my life," he said, "I have come to believe that realism, mysticism and surrealism are all one." The last movie? It ought to be.

review

TELEVISION

Keith Dewhurst

du Maurier

WILFRED DE'ATH'S interview with best selling novelist Daphne du Maurier in "Summer Season" (BBC2) was without doubt a scoop and presented a woman as distinct and fascinating as to some she must have been surprising. For this was every inch the colonel's lady, and British colonel's lady at that. One could still see the handsome girl in the solitary woman, and in the splendid laugh of both one could hear the heroine of The King's General who followed her disreputable magnifico to the war, but the inner link between the two was not really examined.

It is, after all what the colonel's lady has in common with Judy O'Grady that makes her a best seller, but she was not pushed hard enough about the springs of her creativity, about why she thinks her novels are so popular, about her definition of "romantic" (she says that "Freudian man's Creek" is her only romantic novel) and about her relationship to what one might call the highbrow movement in modern literature. She is an obsessive writer and her obsessions were mentioned but not really probed.

Wilfred de'ath interviewed her I thought in a shade too kid-gloved a manner when perhaps there was no need: her manner can be brusque but several times I felt that she would have said more if given the chance. Again, the way in which the programme tried to give an impression of her house and routine meant that the interviews were broken up and never settled to a topic for long enough. But for a programme which must please a wide range of people, it is perhaps over-ambitious. The really fascinating, he should go back and talk to her again.

ALBERT HALL

Edward Greenfield

Boulez Prom

IT WAS A PROM PROGRAMME evidently designed to prove that even the reddest-blooded revolutionaries have their stylistic drawbacks. Boulez with the BBC Symphony Orchestra presented a neat cluster of three works, all of them flawed but all of them great: Stravinsky's Symphonic Poem "The Song of the Nightingale," written after the Rite of Spring, but overtly Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade," late Piano Concerto, which Hugh Wood's programme note optimistically predicted would one day be confused with Grieg and Rachmaninov; and Bartok's rich one-act opera "Bluebeard's Castle."

This was an inspired choice for a Prom opera. With only two singing characters and with the minimum of action (the opening of seven doors merely) it is already half way to being a cantata. More important, the richness of texture in Bartok's opulent orchestration (his Straussian period not entirely forgotten) made this particularly suitable for the Royal Albert Hall in its new acoustic splendour. Above all the great parallel chord passage where Judith surveys Bluebeard's spacious kingdom was gloriously reinforced by the Albert Hall organ—something that could never be matched in the opera house. After that the terror when Judith sees the blood-red cloud was the more eerie, though earlier Boulez had missed some of the horror when Judith sees the walls of the torture chamber dripping with blood.

What probably came over better on stereo radio than in the hall was the translation of Chester Kallman. It avoids most of the tiresome archaisms in Christopher Hassell's version, though it does mar the few felicities of its own—for example, "Your crown of diamonds is bloody," and "Frightened?" repeatedly presented with an avuncular question mark.

Whatever the throwback of style Bartok's score has intense originality, something which Boulez's right direction underlines, not to mention the fine singing of the soloists, Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart. But even with the help of Alfred Brendel, Boulez could not draw out much genuine romanticism from the Schoenberg Piano Concerto, not so much neo-Grieg to his ears as neo-Brahms and Brahms to his dulcet. As an appetiser Boulez directed a brilliant performance of the "Song of the Nightingale" with wit and humour brought out to point the Russian Hans Anderson quality in the music.

QUEENS THEATRE

Oleg Kerensky

Jump!

TAKE A SEX-STARVED but prosperous businessman who wears comic wigs and tells his wife that when he comes it will be rust. Make his wife live in a pink and leopard skin apartment with a battery of TV and radio sets blaring. Let her close her eyes for sex and also to the facts about their sons. Make one of them a neurotic who thinks his girl friend is pregnant while actually she is still a virgin (he spends the action of the play out on the ledge of the apartment threatening to jump). Make the second son a member of the police vice-squad who wears drag even in his off-duty hours. Place all these characters in New York and make them Jewish. Then throw in a doctor who sets a taxi meter to time his visit and fix the fee. A negro servant girl called "Teacream" who resents any interruptions to her phone calls and television, and a police sergeant who uses blackmail to obtain bribes. Then what have you got? As Charles Marowitz, the director and his Open Space Theatre, is associated with this production, what you are meant to have, presumably, is a hilarious and penetrating satire on American materialism and a vehicle to show that Warren Mitchell can play farce and that American tragedy simultaneously.

What you have actually got in I. Gelbart's "Jump!" is an un-mixture of three plays for the p of one—Brian Rix Farce (War Mitchell even ends the first act with his trousers down), Jules Faifer's and Arthur Miller family drama. The trouble is that none of these plays are as good as their pretensions, and together they make a sickly and corn. Certainly there is humour but it is mainly vulgar and obvious. The play's serious targets have more accurately and more wittily before. Even the casting is perverse: there are a couple of Americans supporting parts but South African Sheila Steafel can only give a rough approximation of the all-American Momma, while even Warren Mitchell, much more skilful impersonation really fools us. I doubt if this "Jump" into farce satire and permissiveness will do anyone much good.

NOTTINGHAM

Robin Thorner

Douglas Cause

NOT EVERY playwright can about in his family cupboard and duce such aristocratic skeletons as Liam Douglas Home has done in "Douglas Cause." The cause dates to the eighteenth century when seems, a childless heiress to the estates produced twins at the age of and in shady surroundings in F. The family maintained that the b was natural enough and the House Lords eventually upheld them. But Hamiltons who would otherwise inherited, claimed that the infant been stolen from a French glassblower to maintain the line.

Who was right? Mr Douglas Home's conclusion is that legally the against Lady Jane Douglas is proven, but in human terms obviously has his doubts about legitimacy of his ancestry. Does matter? I suppose that if the them working class school of drists can indulge their nostalgia for problems of their inarticulate parents Mr Douglas Home is just as entitled drag up his family.

You could argue, if you were feeble enough, that whether one of landowners swindled another or that property and all that went not is less significant than the way contrived to prevent the peasants having any share of it. But Mr Douglas Home is obviously fascinated by and what really matters is whether has the skill to grab the rest of us his heirloom hang-ups.

Of course, being related to a so Prime Minister carries an obnoxious cachet at the box office, especially you are suggesting that he is a descendant of a French glassblower. But it would be unkind to dismiss play as if that were all it had going. Imagine instead that it concerns any old Scottish barony — then still interesting? One suspects the regular patrons of Mr Douglas Home's West End comedies might trouble with the bench at a splendid dinner party in C. Douglas in 1910. The rest of the was pretty pathetic but Hutchell Scott deserves a mention for his portrait which cunningly material (live Barry directed this production, the Nottingham Playhouse in association with the Edinburgh Lyceum Company).

EDINBURGH

Nicholas de Jongh

Buchner play

LEONCE, the prince of Popo, sit the palace counting the grains of in his hands and wondering, through boredom that people sit play, fall in love, multiply, and without ever knowing why, it is astonishing stage scene to have it written in the early nineteenth century; but Buchner was spirit towards the twentieth century and reverence for the absurd and dated spirit, while his own was fine to romantic and rhetoric gentleness. Blüchener broke into magnificent isolation. His refusal exalt man above the danger of flesh and animal instinct anticipates the neo-Brahms and Brahms pessimistic rather than romantic.

It is no surprise, therefore, "Leonce and Lena," his only comedy, should be a curious fusion of fairy and grotesque satire, of fable and absurd. The satire accumulates in a court in which the prince mor lives, where his unregal father is seen in the bath with his crown toy ducks in the water, where he arranged a council of State and can remember why. "Either my son get married or he must not; there no third way out," he remarks.

Now this regal satire might heavily if it was not transformed the preposterous by the Buland Theatre. The councillors are shown collection of male transvestites, men and dressed in pantomime rags, all them grave half-wits. They belong the play's outer context rather than content, since the prince is the un- an absurd hero who sees that the world is without point or meaning decides to embody that world himself. It is the combination of grotesque satire and the prince's reaction which gives the play its flavour. W it moves to the prince's expedition of the palace and his love of Lena, Blüchener manages to mock the notion of romantic love, while surreal comes as a lame finale to so an inspired modernity.

The production by Liviu Ciulei sustained feat of ingenuity, removing the play from naturalism by setting on a smaller stage on the actual modern dress (crushed velvet trousers for the prince) and partly torture. This moves it towards mercurial of dream. A chase by police represented by figures moving in slow motion under a spotlight against a white cloth background and the wedding tableau is a group of the transvestite council. Each incident moves the piece further from prosaic moves. The playing is formally excellent.



Dude with violin

Christopher Breunig interviews Pinchas Zukerman, the Israeli violinist who is playing sonatas by Schubert and Beethoven with Daniel Barenboim in the Proms tomorrow.

almost too bright now for small groups).

In the coach, from Copenhagen to Aarhus and Holstebro, Zukerman had continually screened his orchestra. Like someone who cannot tell a tale without fleshing out the characters by dialects, he will embellish his remarks using his violin. Spare moments are filled in with music making—or jokes. Any disruptions in sessions are cues for improvisations: he picks up a violin, testing its voice against the next, eagerly handed over. He begins the Mozart Sinfonia Concertante, it is taken up like a round, broken up by irreverent discordances. He often favours viola-like timbre on his own instrument. Indeed has taped the viola part of K.365 with Isaac Stern.

Jack Benny came unannounced to one of these recent recordings. Was he there, I wondered, as a connoisseur of fiddle playing, or of humour? Ask Zukerman, at the end of a long day's

playing, if he is tired: "Work? How can you be tired when you're doing something you love?" There's a purplish glow under his chin; may be he hardly feels it. The frank openness—willingness to talk to anyone around—the infectious grin, wisecracks, and funny voices (a new massive Groucho Marx, especially when he shares fat cigars with Barenboim), these are aspects missed by the public: essentials glimpsed in Christopher Nupen's film of the Trout Quintet. Zukerman provides the vital humour in the Trio with Barenboim and du Pré: his exuberance dispels any feeling of a routine engagement for an orchestral player.

One senses determination too, a will to organise. In 1967 he was awarded first prize jointly with Kyung Wha Chung in the Leventritt competition; both soloists pupils of Ivan Galamian, equally determined, although as musicians strongly contrasted. At 13

he was heard by Stern and Casals who suggested he should leave Israel to study at the Juilliard School, New York. He won Juilliard and Helena Rubinstein Foundation scholarships, but saw the competition as a threshold to a public career.

As a player, he seems to be losing certain early mannerisms. There was a fondness for a pianissimo voice, the bow scarcely "breathing" on the string, a lovely effect, now used more sparingly. He has a lot of virtuoso repertoire: he plays a firm of virtuoso, displays pieces, but suggest the Paganini concertos and he will tell you the work involved in them is not justifiable — "concertos by Wienawski, Spohr, are musically much more worth while."

Making records he knows now where to cut, where best to insert, although whole takes are the general aim. He directs unobtrusively, hardly using the bow to conduct in small scale pieces, but firmly. Bowing effects are analysed, and continuo parts. Above all, in the rôle of soloist-director he imbues performers with an extrovert quality, so that the pieces seem to burst in terms of colour and rhythmic life. A work such as Vivaldi's two-violin concerto in D minor becomes important and contemporary, reissue the warm Italian sunlight preserved at the moment of copying out.

The Americans at first likened him to Heifetz; some critics to Stern. But his playing, although it has a comparable fluency and ease, has warmer attention to detail and characterisation than the former's, sweeter than his sponsor's, nowadays.

WOMAN'S GUARDIAN

Caithness glass • Ecology • Olive Farquharson

he era i greed

Jacky Gillott

NOTTINGHAM
Robin Thomson
Douglas C...

...are plenty of reasons for such
the inactivity. In its huge, inter-
ested breadth, the problem is very
t to understand—particularly
t for those who haven't yet
the deceptive fruits of a fully
society. The serpent and
ple are irresistible. But the most
ant reason, by far, is that
ments fear the immortality
...rethinking would provoke
...experts are right and we have
...generation in which the alter-
...of what is desirable, maybe
...would face up to the harsh
...survival entails. They are
...sant. They contradict a great
...of those things civilisation has
...us to value such as the freedom
...individual.

...ed at with an ecological eye
...sacred cows seem to have been
...pped the wrong side of history.
...education. Duffly we train
...to leap the hurdles between
...the lives and the high material
...tions we have taught them to
...ntil they are fully equipped to
...their place within the polluting
...tion/consumption cycle of
...al society. When a man is
...red by his material possessions,
...the greed motive built into

...is honourably presented as
...means of giving all people the
...they lack. But "lack" like
...is one of those words with
...contemporary ambiguity. It can
...lack of things people want,
...wanters such as need. For need, substitute
...self-conscious understanding of
...we're in gives rise to escape.
...The middle class (in vasy
...s) escape by car to the country
...s. The young drop out and are
...the married. They cannot be
...being sustained by the very
...they reject. Now they know
...out can alter nothing and begin
...to think in terms of revolution
...only stiffens the resistance of a
...ment that could, with courage,
...the direction. Individual's different
...of life style leaves that of the
...around him largely unaltered.
...does a radical change in
...mental direction remain futile
...e's no corresponding change
...tionally.

...but system of parliamentary
...acy it's very hard to see how
...ity is relevant to the situation
...we find ourselves. Theoretically
...it's conceivable that the fruits
...economic growth might be more
...distributed within a Socialist
...but ultimately the commit-
...to growth is central to all
...democratic system itself is
...time consuming, and the
...please the electorate every
...from stars, downright dangerous. The
...bound issues of population
...pollution, and food shortage
...cannot be dealt with in the
...possible shape of future
...ment is hardly attractive.
...s it should be freed of the five-
...need to seduce. It must cer-
...have the power to limit human
...our (and possession) in
...ly guarded areas. One thinks of
...mitation on family size—so
...mental a restraint. Sir Keith
...has publicly dismissed it. It
...that industry pays for its
...and be less persuaded by
...ment that obsolescence keeps
...cheap.

...all, it must turn away from
...people with the affluent
...aim for a real balance between
...white work opportunities (in
...onia for example) and long-
...cost, and find some means of
...ending a lower all-round
...al standard of living for all of

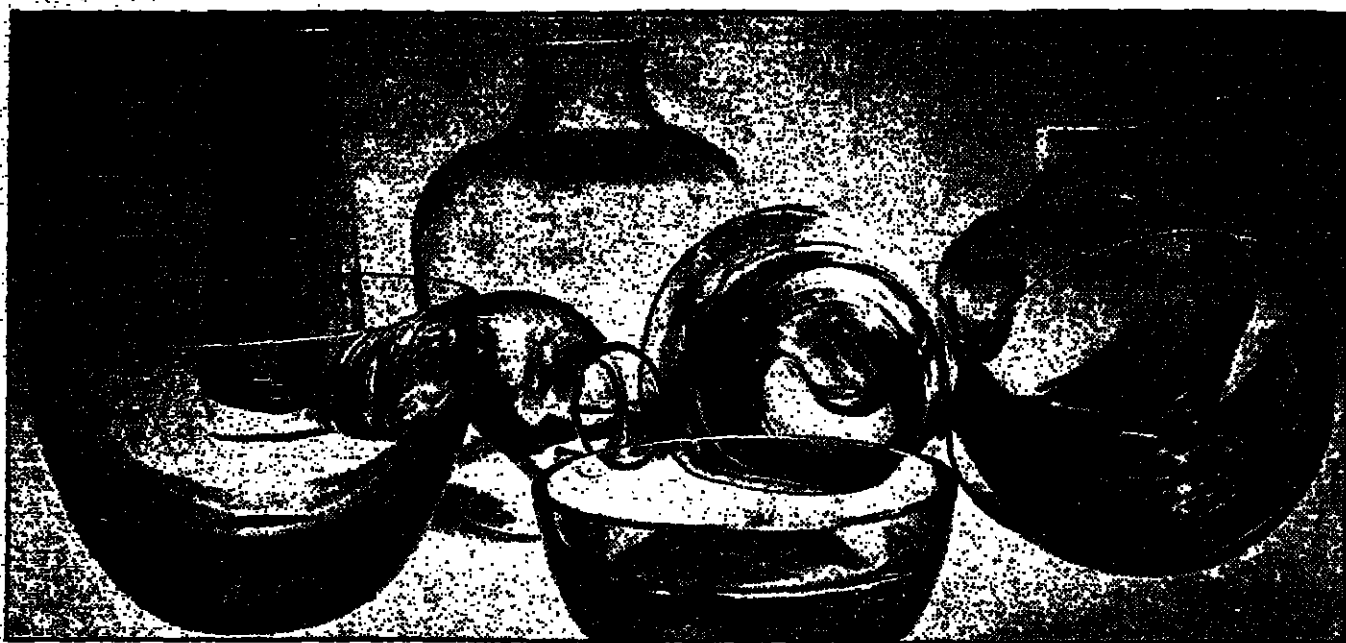
...the moment politicians like to
...these suggestions with the
...ous idea that increased growth
...pay for industrial abuse or that
...very technological ill there exists
...analogical remedy. By that is
...that to cope with car conges-
...builds motorways and to cope
...motorway accidents one builds
...hospital units.

...convincingly, they can dismiss
...suggestions because they are so
...fashioned and open to abuse.
...they demand a steady stream
...of checks, but perhaps those
...now operate in the two-tier, two-
...system could be replaced by
...national and regional checks.
...politicians say quite flatly that
...ic growth cannot be curbed and
...dependence is greater than mine.
...less respect for their view that
...wouldn't stand for change. On
...nary, there are great numbers
...ple in this country more ready
...se change than politicians care
...nt.

...of them may not always have a
...profound grasp of what is
...ically wrong but they are
...aware of things not being quite
...they should be. The things they
...ain are of symptoms. They can't
...hospital bed, can't get through
...a telephone, aren't let their
...cross the street, can't they
...sigh in the windy reaches of
...high-rise flats about the good old
...it wouldn't be impossible to
...that all these fragments are
...of total situation straining
...the combined pressures of profit
...and too many people.

...er weeks ago I broadcast a talk
...ular lines to this and was
...shed to receive letters from a
...ndously broad range of people
...t equally desperate. Was there
...an organisation, they could
...it?

...are scattered groups, there
...number of committed periodicals,
...this energy is being dissipated,
...longer for men and women with
...professional experience of organis-
...nergy to come forward. Looking
...ranks of the politicians we now
...there seems nobody with the
...ge to step aside from party
...tment. Perhaps there is. If so,
...e they will declare themselves.



Right: Colin Terris at work engraving glass. Above: from the standard ranges of Caithness Glass. Left: copper engraved tankard.



Beating the Scandinavians at their own game

by RICHARD CARR

TO MOST SOUTHERNERS, the high-lands and islands of Scotland remain faraway places where the lairds (if there are any still left) live in medieval castles surrounded by lochs, mountains, and moors. Even Dr Johnson had to admit this was a misconception when he made his highland journey and discovered that many of his hosts had made the Grand Tour, knew all about the culture of France and Italy, and had been trading with Russia since before the days of Peter the Great.

And so, perhaps, it is not surprising that, a couple of centuries later, a laird by the name of Sir Robin Sinclair (now Lord Thurso) should be equally up to date and, to provide work for the people of Wick, should have founded a glass-works which set out to beat the Scandinavians at their own game. With glass-blowers from Germany and Italy, a manager called Donald O'Brien, and a designer called Paul Ysart, Caithness Glass began by making a range of tumblers in clear and cased glass, using Scottish colours—peat, heather, and twilight blue—some of which go particularly well with a dram of whisky.

The venture, begun in 1960, was not an immediate success: the quality of the early glass was sometimes poor and inconsistent and it was not long before the company was in serious financial trouble. That it has survived to become a leader in its field is due partly to the courage and tenacity of those who founded it, and partly to the help given by the Highlands and Islands Development Board—not to mention the skill of the designers and craftsmen who make the glass.

Situated on a hill above Wick harbour, Caithness Glass now employs about 150 people, some of whom work in its new factory in Oban. The original cylinder glass, which is chopped off in different lengths to provide vases, whisky tumblers, and even ashtrays, is still the mainstay of the company's output, and the range has been extended by the introduction of a new colour—amethyst—and by solid or opaque stripe effects in various colours in crystal glass.

But, while making good the earlier mistakes—and Caithness still finds it hard to live down the bad reputation of its early days—the company has

branched out into copper engraved glass and, by doing so, is making products that are unique in Britain and are made by only a few other companies in the world. Furthermore, since copper engraving is no longer taught at Edinburgh College of Art or the Royal College of Art, Wick is now the only place in Britain where people can go to learn the craft.

There are two ways of engraving glass, either by using a diamond point, which is no more than surface engraving and was the method used by Rex Whistler, as it is particularly suitable for flowing lines, or by using a copper cutter, in which case the glass is deeply incised. At Wick, cutting by copper is sometimes combined with sand blasting. This method is much more laborious than diamond engraving—not more than 300 engraved pieces are produced a week, and the most complex designs may take an engraver several days to do—but the result is to create a really three-dimensional effect, the kind of effect achieved by bas relief. Because of the limitations of this craft, it is particularly suited to commissioned glass,



which Colin Terris first designed and cut for Caithness in 1968 while, at the same time, training three girls in his craft.

The demand for specially commissioned glass, for wedding presents, universities, clubs, country houses (Blenheim has proved one of the few that is impossible to engrave), mayor's parlours, boardrooms, or royalty has continued unabated, and by 1969 the company had three full-time master engravers (plus one of the original girls who works part-time from her home in Edinburgh) and began making its own limited ranges. These, originally containing 12 pieces in each design (the number has since been reduced to seven), have also become well established and are already collectors' pieces.

The move into engraved glass—and there are now eight trainee engravers at Wick—was followed by further diversification last year when Paul Ysart began making glass paper-weights and from these developed a range of rings, pins, earrings, and pendants in which tubes of coloured glass, drawn out rather like the strands of colour in a stick of rock, are used for the main

decoration, and are then mounted in silver. Like the tumblers, the jewellery has adopted Scottish motifs—the shapes of the flowers found on the moors and Celtic designs. These are also being used for chunky cufflinks and rings which are now being developed for the teenage market.

The jewellery, like much of the engraved glass, is sold in Britain mainly through specialist shops, and is in great demand in America where there are only two companies which can blow crystal glass, and only one which does copper engraving. Hence, in spite of its position at the top end of North-east Scotland and the many problems of transport—not the least of which is that all the sand for its glass has to be brought by lorry from Oban—there is little doubt that, at last, Caithness Glass can look forward to a secure future, while its laird has proved beyond doubt that his craftsmen possess many skills which are hard to find anywhere else in the world.

An exhibition of engraved Caithness glass opens in the Chapter House of Coventry Cathedral on Monday, where it continues until September 26.



Mrs Olive Farquharson and voluntary social workers from Botswana—picture by Peter Johns

Travelling woman

Maureen O'Connor talks to Olive Farquharson

OLIVE FARQUHARSON loves travelling, which is just as well as she has just been elected president of the Associated Countrywomen of the World, the first Englishwoman to hold the office. And very English she is too, being the image of militant pitchfork-wielding ladies conjured by the Countrywomen's full title: blonde, attractive, and apparently calm, an unexpected winner perhaps in an election in which her opponent was a very high-powered American lady indeed. This country's National Federation of Women's Institutes is, of course, delighted.

Mrs Farquharson is a widow now living in the small Essex village of Farnham, where she has been a member of her local WI for years. Her family came originally from Cornish farming stock. But she herself was born in Wimbledon and has had a busy career in publishing. She is not the archetypal WI member, although she can milk a cow, but then the WI is not like that any more. With an increasing number of evening meetings the institutes can now accommodate working women quite easily, and are pleased to welcome commuters like herself to their ranks.

Feet on the ground

The international work of the ACWW has been her main interest since she went to her first international conference as a delegate in 1959. In 1965 she became chairman of the general purposes committee, a job she now gives up in favour of the presidency which, surprisingly, she thinks will give her more time at home. There, belonging to the 28-strong Farnham WI she thinks she will be able to keep her feet on the ground. Does she not find the prospect of leading seven million Countrywomen rather daunting? Appar-

ently not, as she has the happy knack of regarding them as seven million individuals to be met and talked to. And this she sees as the major function of the ACWW, helping individuals to get to know each other across barriers of nationality and race. "Our whole aim is to open the horizons of village women, in this country and abroad, and to help with advice and money where it's needed."

The help and advice go naturally enough mainly to the underdeveloped countries where women often still have to ask their husbands' permission before they can even start an institute. And to keep the personal contact between institutes in the richer countries and those in the poor, projects are deliberately kept small and comprehensible.

"There's a great deal of interest here at the moment in a project for providing small water holes in Botswana, something quite cheap but very useful. This has caught the imagination of members in this country because so many of them can remember what it's like to be without running water, drainage themselves," Mrs Farquharson explains. Members here are also interested to meet some of the people they have been able to help, like the three visitors from Botswana Mrs Farquharson entertained on her return from the conference in Oslo where she was elected. She was delighted to discover that they had actually used classrooms at an agricultural college which had been provided for women students by a ACWW.

"You see it's no use just providing training for the men in countries where women play such an important part in agricultural work and in village life. The women have to be trained too." And as far as educational work is concerned Mrs Farquharson is pleased that the recent relaxation of discussion of religious and political issues by the WIs in this country will enable her to support

measures for birth control education through the ACWW.

Her appointment as president is for three years initially, and she expects to spend three or four months each year travelling "at a leisurely pace." As a widow with no children she feels unhampered by family commitments and hopes she will be remembered as a president who had time to relax in the countries she visits. She sees a large part of her task as simply talking to people at conferences and seminars and, she hopes, starting off a ripple effect which will draw more and more women into education and training to improve rural conditions.

Influence

Not that she underestimates the influence organisations like ACWW can have at a more formal international level. "Organisations like the UN and UNESCO often completely ignore the women's point of view, and it is up to us to make our voice heard," she says. She is particularly pleased that a resolution from a British institute on pollution has successfully made its way through the ACWW conference and is shortly to be discussed by a United Nations conference on the environment. "A great thing about the ACWW is that it can get into international councils and make its point at the highest level, and this is an example of a resolution going right from the grass roots to the very top."

Grass roots support from the institutes is certainly there. Four-fifths of the ACWW's income comes from individual institutes, mainly in the form of small donations from individual members. One of her tasks over the next three years of travel will be, Mrs Farquharson thinks, carrying back to even the smallest institutes here first-hand news of people overseas and their needs. Widening horizons is a two-way process.

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Another year's hard slog

"Our main contention is that the continued spate of claims for wage increases far in excess of the real improvements in productivity that have been achieved can only lead to economic disaster for the industry." Some will dismiss these words from a report on wage inflation and unemployment by the Engineering Employers' Federation as mere propaganda. The report appears immediately ahead of pay negotiations with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. The employers have an interest in painting a picture of the state of engineering which suits their defensive brief. But when all the allowances for partiality have been made the EEF report makes sober reading. It predicts that on present trends another 85,000 workers will lose their jobs in engineering before the end of the year. It suggests that Mr Barber's two budgets this year will have a negligible effect in increasing activity in the industry. To complete a thoroughly dismal picture the report claims that wage inflation shows no real sign of abatement, and may get worse. That the industry's profits are still being squeezed, and that there has been a simultaneous cut in production for home and export markets.

The National Institute's quarterly review of the economy, also published yesterday, makes equally sad reading. The Institute goes so far as to say there is unlikely to be "any significant reversal of this year's rise in unemployment before the end of 1972." We seem set for another miserable year of "stagflation." This must cause concern at the Treasury, since it implies that Mr Barber's two budgets this year show few signs of working. The reason, the EEF suggests, is that the man in the street, fearful for his job and the future, is simply saving all he can—including Mr Barber's tax hand-outs—and not spending. The latest figures for bank lending confirm this; the banks simply cannot find enough credit-worthy borrowers for the money they have to lend. A high level of saving at a time when investment is flat can only mean stagnant consumption. But industry has already got so much spare production capacity that unless consumption does recover there is no incentive to increase investment.

The whole situation is the ultimate in vicious circles. Low productivity, caused by the stagnation of demand and therefore of output, makes industry less and less able to absorb any further increase in costs. But because of steadily rising prices trade unionists feel they have to put in

larger money claims in order to maintain the level of real wage advance. The EEF report makes two sensible observations (which should be taken to heart by some Ministers). Inflation cannot simply be equated to wage demands. The EEF acknowledges that the background to the recent spate of enormous wage claims was an already inflationary situation caused largely by devaluation, rising import prices, taxation, and measures taken by both governments to reduce demand which in fact raised unit costs. The EEF also recognises that "there is probably no socially, politically, or economically acceptable level of unemployment that will in itself bring wage inflation under control."

Whoever bears the greatest blame for the present situation, the question now is how to bring it under control. The result of large wage claims being made when industry is suffering from low productivity and profitability is unemployment. This combination has already been responsible for putting some 200,000 workers out of a job this year. What is there to stop the numbers out of work passing the million mark and staying there?

If inflation is to be brought under control—and unless it is we can say goodbye to revived consumer confidence, and increased spending, production, and employment—there really are only two courses of action. The Government might impose a comprehensive price freeze on the gamut of this would lead to a rapid moderation of wage claims; as indeed it might freeze wages also. But if that happened a large section of industry might go out of business. In any case this would run completely against everything which the Conservatives stand for. The other option is a painful one for the unions, but probably less painful than the present situation: wage claims have to be kept strictly within the limits imposed by the present state of productivity and profitability. This would involve a possibility that some workers would end up with no increase, and perhaps some temporary reduction, in the level of real wages. The objective would be to encourage as fast a recovery in output as quickly as possible so that, in turn, an improvement in the level of wage settlements could follow. It would not be easy for the unions to take this path. Some union leaders would face considerable hostility from their members. But within the present system the options are limited. The test of responsible trade union leadership will be the choice of a path, however hard, that involves the smallest number of casualties.

Agenda for Chequers

Mr Heath and Mr Lynch have been wise to bring their meeting forward from October to next week. But no one should nurse extravagant hopes of what two days at Chequers can produce. It is possible for two men to understand each other better across a dinner table than at opposite ends of a public—though apparently hot—telephone line. But it does not follow that they will want, or indeed are able, to change their courses.

Once the two Prime Ministers have established that what divides them is not personal bitterness, but a problem of national loyalties whose intractability has baffled statesmen for a century, they ought to speak rather frankly to each other. Mr Lynch knows what he wants. He sees himself as the second guarantor—with Westminster—of the rights of the Ulster Catholics to fairer treatment than they have had from the Ulster Unionists in the past half-century. In any normal relationship between States this would be an extravagant claim, but the realpolitik of an area where normal politics have broken down gives Mr Lynch a special rôle in the North, providing his actions justify it.

His second aspiration is for a united Ireland. Mr Heath ought to be honest about this, as doubt-

less he will. Dublin would like him to express some hope for a united Ireland some time in the future. Such a statement would doubtless help Mr Lynch to cleave to more moderate policies. But the promise would be a false one. Both Conservative and Labour parties in Britain have said with monotonous frequency that the elected representatives of the Northern Ireland people must decide on that. Neither Mr Heath nor Mr Wilson can dishonour that promise.

So Mr Heath must tell Mr Lynch that he can have an influence on events in the North, but that he has to give in order to get. He must be asked to deal with the IRA—not just to stop collections, but to prevent shooting across the border, deny gunmen safe sanctuary, and stop the open and flagrant carrying of arms. This is the least that one friendly country can do for another which is suffering from a campaign of terror. Mr Lynch should also use his influence to get the Northern Catholic politicians back to negotiation and away from civil disobedience, which almost inevitably edges into disorder, riot, and bloodshed. Mr Heath could do a lot to get a better deal for the Northern Catholics. But Mr Lynch will have to help him to help them.

Hazards ahead for Thieu

The results of the elections to South Vietnam's Lower House contain a warning to President Thieu. His majority, at 80 per cent, is less than last time, but it is still comfortable. Most of this is concentrated in the rural areas in which he has been working hard to gather support. These areas are also the easiest to fix through loyal provincial officials. The opposition comes from the winners in the urban areas and in the An Quang militant Buddhist faction, whose strength is traditionally in the northern provinces. The fragmentary nature of Vietnamese politics points against these groups forming a cohesive opposition. Nevertheless they represent significant and sensitive areas.

The An Quang showed the strength of their anti-government and anti-war ticket by the extent of their success in the first time of contesting Lower House elections. They can command a sizeable following among the majority of South Vietnamese. The urban opposition is more serious. The massive dollar funds and the presence of the American administration, together with the inflationary effects of war, have produced squalor and wealth side by side. This has long been a source of unrest. But the danger for President Thieu lies in a coincidental change in the policies

of the National Liberation Front and Hanoi. In the rethinking of tactics after the Tet offensive, it seemed more effective to give first place to political attack on the cities. The countryside could be left to wait. Urban discomfort now has a stronger voice.

In eliminating his rivals for the presidential election in October, President Thieu has left himself exposed. The withdrawals of General Minh and Vice-President Ky are unlikely to increase or diminish them as focuses of opposition. Thieu is now left alone with his military and administrative powerbase—and the United States. Washington was keen that Thieu should have rivals so that democracy could at least be seen to be done. They have considerable grounds for feeling disappointed that it was largely Thieu's actions which left him the sole runner. Above all, Thieu will need funds to keep the army and country-wide administration up to bearing the increasing Vietnamese burden of pacification and fighting the war. He needs funds to keep demonstrations off the streets. Congress could well try to cut back the \$565 millions aid demanded for the coming year. Any faltering in patronage will show up more clearly that President Thieu won his election too well.

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK.—At the beginning of this century it appeared that the great marsh south-west (sancus palustris) was well on the way to extinction in this country. A few patches of it lingered in Kent and along the lower reaches of some of the rivers of Broadland, but it had vanished from the fens of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Lincolnshire and from most of its former haunts in East Anglia. Since then, however, it has made a remarkable recovery in the eastern parts of Norfolk and Suffolk and has become abundant and widespread along many miles of river banks in these two counties. This year it has made tremendous growth and in the past few weeks its pale gold flowers, topping sturdy stalks up to 10 feet tall, have added much to the splendour of the marshland scene for holidaymakers on the Broads. Rooted firmly in the clay of river dredgings, the plants grow in close ranks, presenting a front which hides the reeds and delights the eye with a frieze of succulent, ribbed stems and bold arrow-shaped leaves, while the gliding of the clustered flowers is offset by the dark bracts. Presently they will be tufted with white cottony seeds drifting away with every puff of wind, and so, nowadays, colonisation spreads apace. These south-west do not invade ploughlands and gardens like the rest of their tribe: they are by nature restricted to river and marsh habitats where moisture is plentiful at a certain critical level only a little way beneath the surface of the ground. They cannot long withstand regular cutting or grazing, so their refuges must always be where cattle cannot reach them, riverbanks of the banks and ditches encompassing our rich lowland pastures.

E. A. ELLIS

WHAT Soviet politicians say in public about the European Economic Community has all the inelegant predictability of a Tass handout. Mr Kosygin's criticisms, in 1967, are as close to a balanced judgment as anything that has come out of Eastern Europe. "The very name Common Market is a drawback in that it is not common because all countries are not free to join. Markets of this kind should be open to cooperation of all nations on an equal footing."

That view is, at least, historically consistent. For Russia (in spite of the Community's rôle as "commercial backing for the Western nuclear alliance") had hoped to negotiate "favoured nation" trading treaties with the EEC. But it is not so indicative of real Eastern European attitudes than less publicised comment.

Immediately after the Treaty of Rome was signed, most Warsaw Pact countries were sceptical about the EEC's prospects. The Moscow Institute of World Economics and International Relations called it "a new method of dividing the capitalist world market, which could only lead to 'frictions and conflict'." Five years later, a different judgment emerged. Production had risen more quickly than the institute anticipated, providing "certain increases in wages for the labouring classes." In "Pravda" the institute's director talked of the EEC's "remarkable vitality." Most revealing of all, Eastern Europe began its long and painful campaign to create a sort of common market of its own.

In fact the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) preceded the Common Market by almost a decade. But throughout the earlier years nobody—including Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania, East Germany, and the Soviet Union, its permanent members—was sure of what it was supposed to do.

It was easy to describe tasks which were beyond it. It could not be a Customs Union—for tariff reduction is meaningless among countries whose external trade is controlled by State directives rather than regulated by import duties. It could not seek the benefits that come from specialisation within a vast multi-national market—for there was no price mechanism to measure relative utility and the theories of Adam Smith had been specifically rejected in favour of "the Socialist division of labour," by which every country does a little of everything.

Some East European countries suspected that mutual economic assistance meant decisions taken from Moscow in the interest of the Russian economy, and that even benefits that came as a byproduct of that principle would be limited to the more



'The very name Common Market is a drawback in that it is not common because all countries are not free to join. Markets of this kind should be open to cooperation of all nations on an equal footing.'

KOSYGIN on the EEC, 1967.

Comecon: council of distrust

ROY HATTERSLEY, MP, on Eastern Europe's answer to the Common Market

industrialised States in the partnership. Albania joined and then withdrew. Rumania, constantly dissident, demanded what amounted to a "Comecon of the States" with a positively Gaullist insistence on the preservation of national sovereignty.

Comecon's inaugural documents unfolded the necessity to preserve national sovereignty; but they were written at a time when nobody had any doubt about who was really running Eastern Europe. Since then, most Warsaw Pact countries have struggled, in one way or another, for a modicum of independence. Comecon had proved a field in which the prospect of national autonomy can be peacefully tested.

So when, in 1962, Mr Khrushchev urged the creation of a central policy authority, empowered to produce common economic plans for all the Comecon countries, Rumania immediately threatened to leave the alliance.

In the absence of a strong international civil service—Comecon officials are counted in hundreds, EEC in thousands—much of the policy had to be made by the governments of individual member countries. In spite of Mr Khrushchev's assurance that the Soviet Union was "prepared to reduce the output of some kinds of manufacture if it proved more expedient to produce them in other countries," the old fears of Soviet economic dominance reappeared.

But the rejection of economic integration is not just the result of political caution on the part

of Russia's junior partners. The different economies of the Comecon countries have divergent needs. Although—with the exception of East Germany—the fastest rate of growth has been achieved in the poorest countries, Comecon economies have not grown close enough together to give them a common interest in common industrial policies.

Rumania, whose large and growing trade with the EEC is based on the diversity of what she makes and sells, has a permanent vested interest in avoiding specialisation. East Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union are at the other extreme—developing high technology industries which need markets larger than those provided by a single nation. The political system permits little direct cooperation between individual companies—though the Czechoslovak-Polish tractor combine is a happy exception. So real integration has been limited to areas where governments gave unanimous, if grudging, agreement: pipelines and an international grid to link nationally produced power.

Even in agriculture the same problems exist. Article 3 of Comecon's basic principles calls for "regional self-sufficiency"—the production of those crops which are most suited to the varied climates and soils of Eastern Europe in such abundance that Comecon no longer needs to import food.

If that principle were firmly and sensibly applied, Rumania, Bulgaria and the USSR would be permanent wheat exporters

and the rest of Eastern Europe would import wheat for ever. When the basic principles were "clarified" it was explained that the real aim was for every country to supply its own needs. The Soviet Union would specialise in land intensive agriculture—but only to meet the demands of those countries whose own wheat production was temporarily lower than their needs.

Comecon's recent history not only shows Eastern Europe's growing desire to detach itself from the Soviet economy, it also demonstrates Russia's willingness to pay, at least token respect to that ambition. As a result the needs for economic integration have suffered. Within Comecon, the suffering has become particularly noticeable as a result of growing exposure to the EEC and its ways.

Trade between East and West Europe tripled during the sixties. In the East the expansion provided a welcome outlet for its agricultural products, a chance to buy capital goods on credit and the opportunity to measure the cost and quality of Comecon goods against the products of the price competitive economies of the West. The fear that EEC members would act in concert to boycott Comecon goods was replaced by the discovery that there was no common Common Market commercial policy: just a desire to improve the services that made commerce possible.

Within Comecon the services were either non-existent or a positive barrier to trade. Most internal trade is governed by five-year bilateral agreements. They reflect each Government's production and export decisions and create a state of almost permanent financial chaos as barter payments are negotiated, and debts left unpaid to the Internal Bank for Economic Cooperation. This year's attempts to create a multi-lateral payments system seem likely to founder on the familiar rock.

Other subscribers to the bank were immediately suspicious of Russian intentions. Were they, they wondered, simply a new way of ensuring increased investment in the Soviet Union?

But for all the built-in suspicions and inadequacies of the Soviet industrial system, it is not impervious to the realities of economic necessity. The industrialised countries of Eastern Europe—Poland, Hungary and East Germany in particular—need a large integrated market if they are to expand and prosper. When one of them suggests closer cooperation, the others are frightened off by the prospect of a too affectionate Russian embrace. But it will come. In East and West Europe, the seventies are bound to be the decade of the international market.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Politics in the age of consent

Sir,—Mr Franks (August 30) asks if any other readers have had birthday cards from political organisations.

On my eighteenth birthday, in May, I received a card from the local branch of the Young Conservatives. The front of the card showed a mini-skirted young Tory, standing legs apart, with the slogan "Come on in." Inside, the card had been signed by ten Young Conservatives, who between them seemed to have only two styles of hand-

writing. With the card was a duplicated letter from our local MP, telling me why I should join the party and how I should vote now that I was "in."

Unlike the son of Mr Franks's friend I had no letter from a bank. Perhaps they found out my date of birth, but at the same time managed to find out that I had no money—Yours sincerely,

John Diamond,
25 Lichfield Road,
Woodford Green, Essex.

Filthy Forth

Sir,—I recently learned that the City of Edinburgh is to get a new opera house costing £4,500,000, half of which will come from the Government.

I am somewhat surprised that the Government and the City Council in Edinburgh haven't considered installing a sewage system for the 500,000 inhabitants as well as for the benefit of the coastal resort in the immediate vicinity. Not that I am suggesting that the choice is between properly treated effluent and the enjoyment of cultural pursuits, but the ability to use the beaches of Scotland's East coast without having to pick one's way to the edge of the water, and risk goodness knows what when one is swimming in it, would seem to take precedence over the most worthwhile extensions to our cultural facilities.

My judgment may be coloured to some extent by the fact that although Sheffield wouldn't claim the finest sewage works in Europe it has at least made the environment a major item of concern. What we would now like in Sheffield is a little Government backing, so far denied, in extending our facilities for the appreciation of those artistic attractions of which Edinburgh is so well endowed.—Yours faithfully,

David Blunkett,
79 Southgrove Road,
Sheffield,
Yorkshire.

Troops out

Sir,—It is cruel and senseless to continue to send young men to be living targets in the Northern Ireland dispute. We must recall Parliament and consult the UN with a view to their mediation. If possible, a UN police force should be sent to Ulster to keep the peace until a political solution is found.—Yours sincerely,

Lorna Power,
Dene Knoll,
3 Mount Close,
Pound Hill,
Crawley, Sussex.

Who protects us from 'security'?

Sir,—The newspapers report (August 29) that private security guards, accompanied by Alsatians and armed with Sten guns, clubbed several young people into unconsciousness, fracturing two skulls, at the Weeley Pop Festival.

In 1968 private security guards, hired by a local authority, broke into a house occupied by a squating family, threw the members of the family down the stairs and gave them a good kicking before they left; the mother was pregnant at the time and subsequently had a miscarriage. In the same year private security guards, hired by a local authority, set loose dogs on art students who had peacefully occupied their school. This year, untrained Alsatian dogs used for security purposes dragged a young child into a factory compound and savaged him so badly that the boy's body was described by the policeman who found him as being "like a sack of bleeding meat."

Again, this year, I took some school pupils to an art exhibition at the Hayward Gallery. They were intimidated into complete silence and rigidity by the private security guards, dressed typically in their paramilitary uniforms. To be fair, the guards had left their helmets, goggles, and clubs behind for this particular occasion.

Walking through the centre of London these days, it is difficult to believe that we are not under occupation. Ostentatiously armoured vehicles, occupied by uniformed men with heavy clubs, cruise the streets. It is possible that their presence invites equally excessive armament from the wage-smashers. (How about considering the growth of the private security firms as a contributory factor to the growth of criminal violence?) Certainly their presence has altered our psychological environment. The very concept of private

security contradicts the democratic process since it separates social control from justice. The problem is—and both Orwell and Solzhenitsyn asked this long ago—Who is going to protect us from the security forces?—Yours faithfully,

Ken and Lorraine Worpole,
7 Oldfield Road,
London N 16.

Sir,—To help people to judge what happened at the Weeley festival over the weekend I hope you will allow me to add one hitherto largely unreported fact—that over 15,000 young people spent three days, just enjoying and behaving themselves, as a result of which well over £30,000 is to go to charity.

Geoff Lee,
251 Albert Road,
London N 22.

Woman power

Sir,—Is it not time for the female population of the world to stand up and say that they have had enough of Protestant Power, Catholic Power, Jewish Power, Arab Power, Hindu Power, Moslem Power, White Power, Black Power, Communist Power, Capitalist Power, and the rest of the shambles that men have created?

Since so many men appear still to be held captive by megalomaniacs they should be reminded that some women do not bear children to provide cannon-fodder. Women can refuse to give the man's name, and thus play a lead to men to enable them to adapt to the realities of present-day life. If political and religious indoctrination have made it impossible to live harmoniously with neighbours, then jettison the indoctrination. The hazards of chance and nature are enough to cope with, without the additional burdens of man-made disasters.—Yours faithfully,

Jimmy Rice,
Clovell,
Wyre Hill,
Bewdley,
Worcestershire.

for furnishing this information is the head of the household, presumably the worried father himself in the case cited.

Electoral registers may be freely inspected in public libraries, and are on sale from town halls to offset the cost of their production. Election agents receive one free; I presume that banks buy them.

Christina Baron,
Political Vice-Chairman,
Union of Liberal Students,
London SE 1.

Pope and porn

Sir,—Mr Heath recently sent a telegram to the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic informing him that his expressions of concern for democracy in Northern Ireland constituted a gross interference in British internal affairs.

Will Mr Heath now please write in similar terms to the Pope, whose endorsement of the censorship lobby of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association is reported in today's paper (August 28)?—Yours faithfully,

Paul Villiers,
168 Castle Hill,
Reading, Berkshire.

Lemon juice

Sir,—Professor Pauling's hypothesis as quoted in Anthony Tucker's review is interesting in relation to my experience. Two years ago, on my doctor's advice and for reasons nothing to do with the common cold, I went on a weight reducing diet. I am habituated to drinking large quantities of tea, which I used to take with milk and sugar. I substituted saccharine but I found this quite unpleasant with milk, yet quite tolerable with lemon juice instead of the milk. Hence for two years I have consumed a quite large quantity of lemon juice.

I had remarked to my family recently that not only had I escaped the colds that had been prevalent but also that last winter was the first for many years during which I was free from the usual bronchitis attack. I had been considering what might be the cause of this improvement. It seems to me that it may well be due to the exceptionally large doses of vitamin C of Professor Pauling's theory.—Yours faithfully,

D. A. Wilson,
7 Woodlands Close,
Broadbottom, Hyde.

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Pound firm in quiet money markets

Foreign exchange markets were much quieter yesterday than they had been earlier in the week and the pound was generally in the spread between \$2.4530 and \$2.4570 for most of the day, though at one point a sudden major movement weakened the dollar so it stood at \$2.4580 but it soon moved back. The rate finished around \$2.4550 to the pound and dealers suggested that trading had been very much two-way.

Further curbs by Japan

Our Financial Staff
The Japanese authorities have announced further restrictions on the export of certain types of machinery and equipment to the United States. The move is seen as a further step in the Japanese drive to protect their domestic industries from foreign competition.

French reverse franc ruling

Foreigners who bought shares on the Paris forward market during August will be able to settle their deals in commercial francs, M. Alerie Goscard, Minister of Finance, announced yesterday.

Rouble is hitched to dollar

The Soviet Union joined the currency fray yesterday by reducing the value of the rouble in relation to 15 currencies by an average of 1 per cent. The move was seen as a further step in the Soviet drive to stabilize its economy.

Year to wait for recovery

The Chancellor's July measures are likely to lead to a good recovery in consumer spending, and higher exports are also likely to help growth back to an annual rate of 3-4 per cent, but this will not be enough to produce any real improvement in industrial investment or unemployment until the end of 1972.

These are the main conclusions of the revised economic forecasts of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which take into account the Chancellor's July measures, the CBI price initiative and the latest trade figures.

The NIESR is rather sceptical about the CBI initiative, which it estimates will reduce inflation by only about 1 per cent on its own—although a positive trade union response could make the effect large. On the other hand Mr Barber's tax cuts are seen as having a bigger effect, so that the NIESR forecast by 11 per cent. It is now forecast that consumer prices will be 5.8 per cent higher next year than this.

In spite of these far from encouraging forecasts, the National Institute for once recommends no immediate change in Government policy. It regards the "stop" in the economy which we are now suffering as too late to mend: it is bound to be some time before investment responds to resumed growth of consumption.

The review was written too late for any detailed commentary on the international monetary crisis, but the NIESR has one clear and loud piece of advice for the Government: Britain should try to secure an effective devaluation by keeping near the bottom of the readjustment league.

This advice is given in spite of a forecast current account surplus on the balance of payments of £875 millions this year and £325 millions next year. "The large size of this surplus can largely be accounted for by the degree of slack in the economy," the review comments. "Our calculations suggest that—given the exchange rates effective at August 15 and the present terms of trade—at full employment the rise in imports might reduce the surplus to very small proportions, and possibly turn it into a deficit—and this despite the recent favourable performance of exports."

"It is possible that the present international monetary crisis will result in a realignment of exchange rates favourable to the UK, in which case a further (and welcome) stimulus to exports might be expected."

The case for this quasi-devaluation is stronger, in the NIESR view, if the vote goes in favour of Europe, as is expected, because this could lead to a further push on costs and prices.

"A further decline in competitiveness, and the costs associated with entry into Europe, would significantly increase the likelihood of deficit by 1973 on a full employment basis."

"The present crisis over the dollar offers an opportunity of a realignment of exchange rates which would, whatever the decision on Europe, allow the UK to return to full employment without running into a balance of payments deficit."

The fear of the NIESR of a further loss in competitiveness is based on the wage situation. The well-publicised 10 per cent rise in the retail price index in the last twelve months is likely to be the basis for many settlements for some months to come," the review remarks. "An even if settlements do moderate, it argues, earnings are likely to start running ahead of wage rates again as the economic recovery sets in."

There is nevertheless slow-down in the forecast rate of wage earnings growth from a recent annual rate of 14 per cent to under 12 per cent by the end of 1972.

In the light of this the NIESR sees two possible outcomes of the CBI price initiative (assuming that it is supported by its members). If it wins some moderation from the trade unions, it could slow down inflation by another percentage point or so from the reduced forecast rates. (Professor E. Victor Morgan's forecast, reported on this page yesterday, was far more optimistic.)

But if the unions do not respond, the short-term effect would be a gain in real income and slightly faster growth than forecast—but we would soon pay.

"The pressure of costs would rise throughout the year, and there would be a growing gulf of potential sharp price increases to be implemented in August 1972, thus repeating the experience of the past two years in which wages first ran ahead of prices but later on began to be overtaken by them."

On the whole, the NIESR seems to think that history is rather likely to repeat itself.

Anthony Harris

Henry counter by GUS

Great Universal Stores is to counter-bid for A. and S. Henry the Manchester mail order company.

Terms of the offer, which were announced late last night, are one 'A' ordinary share of Great Universal plus £2.70 cash for every 9 ordinary shares of Henry.

This values the Henry ordinary shares at 77p each and the whole company at £8.3 millions. There is also a cash alternative of 75p for each Henry share.

Business change

Mr C. J. W. Scott has retired from executive duties as a managing director of Crompton Parkinson, after more than 30 years with the company. He will remain a director of Crompton Parkinson and has been succeeded by Mr J. H. S. Siddle.

Bankrupt deals rules

The Stock Exchange Council has now laid down a procedure to settle bargains where a share register has been closed following the appointment of a receiver in order that outstanding items arising from transactions prior to the closing of the register may be settled.

The effect of the directive is that any person who sold Rolls-Royce shares prior to the closing of the register through a member of the London Stock Exchange and has a certificate in his own name but was unable to make delivery before the closing of the register can use the new procedure to make delivery and obtain payment according to the terms of his original bargain, said a spokesman.

The council has been advised that although a register may be closed due to lack of funds before liquidation supervenes the obligation of a company to register transfers continues even though in practice registrations may not be effected. Furthermore the equivalent of a legal title passes from transferor (the seller) to transferee (the buyer) when all necessary conditions have been satisfied to the improvement, as between himself and the company the right to have the transfer registered.

Under a new council ruling, buying brokers will be compelled to pay against delivery of certified transfers or matching transfers and certificates provided they are accompanied by the appropriate form of certificate and acknowledgment. To protect their clients' position buying brokers should lodge certified transfers or transfers with matching certificates with the company secretary at the registered office. In the case of liquidation the procedure laid down in October 1965 applies.

'Rescue service' extended

American Express yesterday announced that it has expanded its weekend and holiday financial "rescue service" into the Far East, Africa, Australia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Canada.

Under the new arrangement, travellers whose American Express cheques are lost or stolen on weekends and holidays will be able to obtain emergency refunds at offices of the International Avis car rental system. A similar service is already operating in Western Europe, as well as in the United States, where the emergency refunds are made through Western Union offices.

"During the present currency crisis, American Express offices overseas are the centres for solving travellers' foreign money difficulties," said Mr Michael Lively, senior vice-president of American Express and general manager of its travellers' cheque department.

Profit leap

Profits from Sun Alliance and London Insurance, described as "fantastic" by one jobber, reversed the trend in the firm's share price yesterday.

Pre-tax profit has risen from £5.2 millions to £8.4 millions, and although the sharply increased tax charge eats into the improvement, net profits are higher at £3.36 millions against £3.79 millions in the first six months of 1970. On the strength of the improvement the board has decided to increase the interim dividend from 7½ pence to 8 pence.

Firm sues

Turriff Construction Ltd and Turriff Construction Corporation Ltd are claiming damages in a High Court case concerning the second phase of the controversial Ebbw Vale development in the City.

The companies are suing the City of London Corporation, and a writ has been served. An appearance has been entered on their behalf.

The Turriff directors announced last month that they were withdrawing from the £40 million scheme.

CITY COMMENT

SUN/GEN. ACCIDENT Success assured

JUST AS the professionals on the London Stock Exchange were beginning to think they had the measure of the composite insurance sector, the Sun Alliance and London with interim figures at least £22 millions better than the market had been expecting.

The Sun Alliance figures could start investment analysts wondering whether there has been underwriting in the composite insurance sector to keep ahead of the inflationary game. And whether, even after the 51 per cent rise in the FT composite insurance share index from its year's low, the market has not yet fully discounted future profitability.

Until the group actually came out with its results, Sun Alliance had been widely written-off as unlikely to produce anything in the way of excitement after last year's sharp increase in profits. The group lacked, so the argument ran, recovery potential. So the underwriting profit of £2.3 millions against a loss of £400,000 for the same period last year came out of the blue.

The company itself is not particularly forthcoming on the sources of the improvement. It admits that there has been a useful underwriting profit on the relatively small US business and comments that results from

most of the important territories (Canada and Australia excepted) are better. Which means of course that the most important, the UK, is still on the upgrade.

Now the interesting feature is that UK motor, the most obvious sector to look for "recovery" in, underwriting results is still loss-making. Although the losses are reduced, so if the major recovery area is still recovering where has Sun Alliance found its £22-million-plus underwriting profit?

The inevitable conclusion is that, far from being satisfied with last year's handsome non-motor underwriting profit, Sun Alliance has been taking an aggressive attitude towards pushing up premiums in an inflationary period. One can almost hear the directors persuading themselves that an underwriting profit of 5 per cent on premium income is a minimum target.

In contrast General Accident's results contain few surprises but confirm the improving underwriting trend apparent from the first quarter figures. The pace of the improvement in underwriting results continued to accelerate in the second quarter of 1971. This was only to be expected given the group's heavy commitment to the motor market, where the rate increases of the past 12 months have yet fully to work through. The firm's own comment, that underwriting is "not yet satisfactory" is no doubt a none too subtle hint, about future increases.

But perhaps the most encouraging feature in the GA figures is the continued rise in investment income. At the end of last year the firm was publicly wondering whether in fact investment income might not decline absolutely in 1971. In fact, although the rate of increase has levelled, investment income is £7.9 millions against £7.58 millions for the first half of 1970. This and the increased dividend should be good for the shares this morning.

ODDENINO'S A hint of mystique

IT HAS LONG been accepted that the profit figures which Oddenino's Property and Investment chooses to publish are merely the tip of the iceberg.

With rental companies, however, sufficient facts are given to enable analysts to value them on the basis of the cash generation of each group. Oddenino's does not of course supply enough facts to get even near an evaluation of its intrinsic worth.

It will need a consolidation of this programme before profits make the breakthrough—although very much like a television rental company which, when it is growing very fast, shows little pre-tax growth because of the heavy front and depreciation on rental sets.

With rental companies, however, sufficient facts are given to enable analysts to value them on the basis of the cash generation of each group. Oddenino's does not of course supply enough facts to get even near an evaluation of its intrinsic worth.

General Accident

WORLDWIDE RESULTS for six months ended 30th June 1971 INTERIM STATEMENT

The results* for the six month period ended 30th June, 1971, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those of the similar period last year; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1970.

It must be emphasised that the figures for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year. This helps to eliminate abnormal fluctuations which for technical reasons would otherwise emerge in the published quarterly results.

	6 months to 30.6.71, 2000's estimate	6 months to 30.6.70, 2000's estimate	Year 1970, 2000's actual
GENERAL BUSINESS			
Net Premiums written	116,381	100,061	195,698
Underwriting Profit (loss)	235	(1,619)	(5,987)
INVESTMENT INCOME	7,952	7,388	15,282
* The results of overseas territories have been converted at the rates of exchange ruling on 30th June, 1971.			
The underwriting result is arrived at before charging contributions to Staff and Widows Pension Funds, the cost of servicing loan capital and bank loans and certain other expenses. It includes no charge for taxation other than on premiums.			
In the United States net written premiums for the six months increased from \$123,727,000 to \$139,440,000. The statutory underwriting loss was \$487,000 as compared with a loss of \$2,584,000 and the operating ratio was 96.15% compared with 96.65%.			
In Canada underwriting for the six months to date has still been unprofitable, although performance in the second quarter of 1971 shows some improvement. Experience in the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa has improved but is not yet satisfactory.			
MARINE & AVIATION DEPARTMENT			
Net premium income continues to increase at a satisfactory rate, reflecting a greater participation in many larger risks as well as the effect of rating measures. The 1969 account which is due to be closed at the end of 1971 should produce a small surplus. The 1970 and 1971 accounts are both showing a better trend at 30th June.			
LIFE DEPARTMENT			
	6 months to 30.6.71, 2000's	6 months to 30.6.70, 2000's	Year 1970, 2000's
New business figures are as follows:			
New sums assured	194,363	163,006	342,777
New annuities per annum	469	326	818
New life and annuity premiums:			
Single	1,938	2,261	5,868
Annual	2,537	2,344	4,686
DIVIDEND			
The Directors have decided to pay on 1st December, 1971, to ordinary shareholders on the register of members on 30th October, 1971, an interim dividend in respect of the year 1971 of 2.75p per 25p share subject to deduction of income tax (1970 2.5p).			
The transfer books of the Corporation will be closed from 1st to 15th November, 1971, both days inclusive.			

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd.,
World Headquarters: General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.



YLOR & HARTLEY GROUP LTD.

ISSUED CAPITAL: FULLY PAID £1,012,429

	1970	1971	1970	1971
Turnover	2,967,000	2,961,000	150,241	154,873
Profit before tax	2,468,000	2,599,000	19,540	39,257
Profit after tax	20,000	17,000	13,242	11,762
Profit after tax	4,456,000	4,997,000	203,866	205,792
Dividends declared			130,833	119,538
Capital reserve	341,176	551,909	141,798	501,224
Net assets			673,087	645,022

The Chairman, Mr. Thomas Cook, J.P., of the Annual General Meeting held on the 11th September, 1971, stated that the Group was benefiting from the recovery in the motor and engineering sectors, but that the impact had not yet been felt elsewhere.

Surprise candidate for GM's top post

The most likely candidate for chairman and chief executive officer of General Motors Corp. is Richard C. Gerstenberg, observers believe. The current chairman, James M. Roche, reaches the mandatory retirement age of 65 in December.

Mr Gerstenberg, aged 61, was named vice-chairman of the company early last year, moving him higher in the GM structure than Edward N. Cole, GM's president and the man once considered Mr Roche's most likely successor.

As chairman of the auto maker's finance committee, the most powerful in GM's committee-run management, Mr Gerstenberg is exposed to all the important day-to-day operations of GM. In addition he has the assignment of operational responsibility for GM's vast overseas activities.

Some GM insiders say the prime indication of Mr Gerstenberg's eventual move to the chairmanship is the overseas assignment since it gives him experience as an executive in GM's \$3,500 million foreign operations after a career in staff work.

Secret study

In the past year he travelled to Washington monthly to work on a secret study on international trade and investment policies for the White House. The study is rumoured to recommend a surcharge on imports as a "last resort".

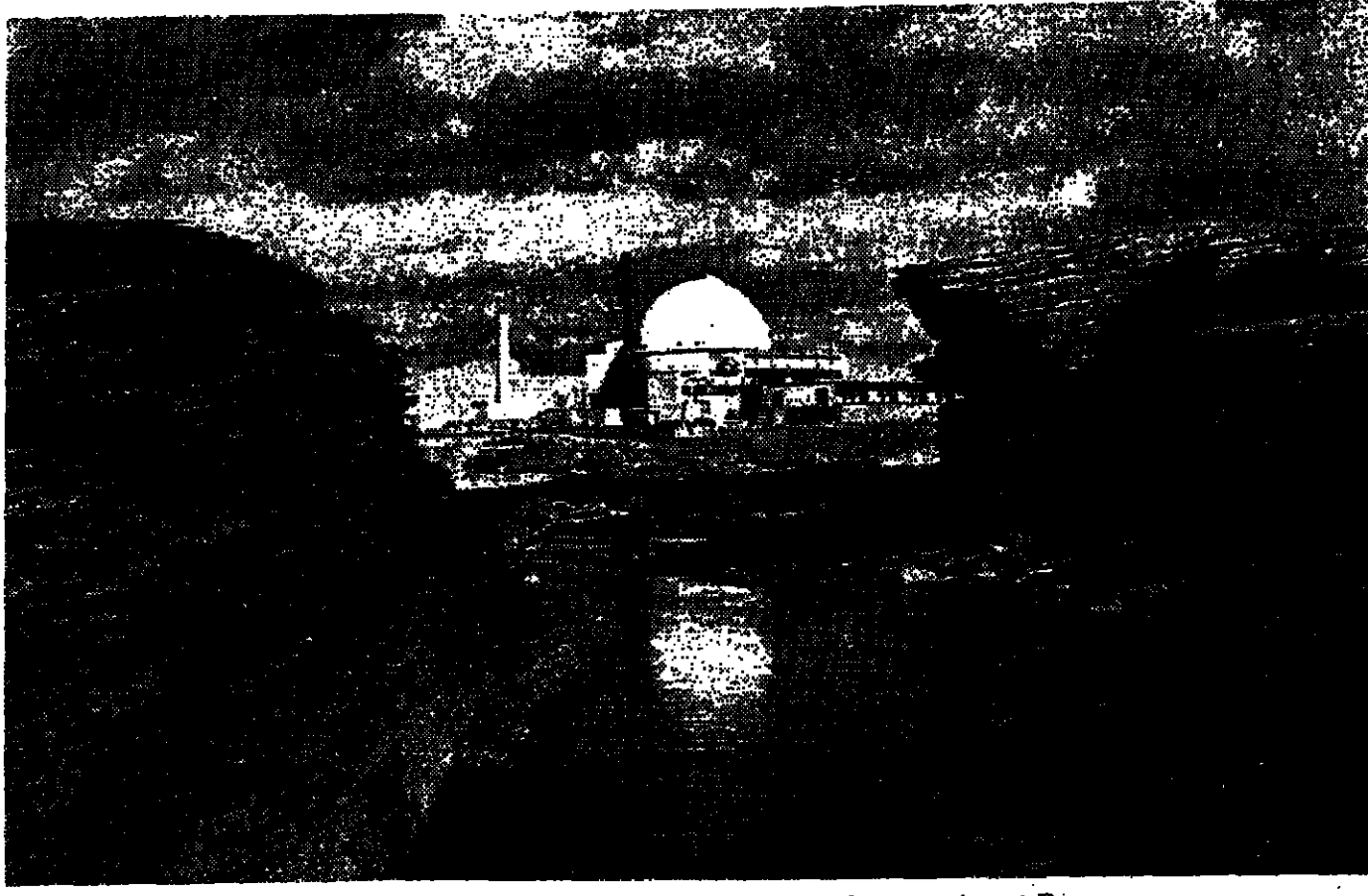
The fact that Mr Gerstenberg may become GM's next chief may be a surprise outside GM. He is largely unknown, even in Detroit. But his background in finance and his grooming as a corporate diplomat are well-attuned to GM's current priorities, which are concerned with the effects of cost pressures on GM's prices and profits, the endless onslaught of external criticism and the growing opportunities in the world auto market. "The situation calls for a cost-cutting, rather than a product developer and innovator," says one observer. "The situation requires someone who can operate smoothly and predictably in Washington."

None of this bodes well for Mr Cole. He is a brilliant engineer who successfully ran two of GM's auto divisions, becoming an executive vice-president two years before Mr Gerstenberg, who is the same age. Mr Cole has won praise within GM for his efforts to clean GM engines and improve safety. But he is also a risk-taker: the Chevrolet Corvair he pioneered was once his chief accomplishment but is now a GM liability. And he is outspoken and unpredictable, sometimes taking public positions at odds with the GM line espoused by Mr Roche.

New importance

Mr Gerstenberg's strengths are financial planning and pricing. One facet of his background has taken on new importance recently: dealing with Government price administrators. At the end of the Second World War, he headed a task force of GM technicians who worked with the Office of Price Administration.

Beyond these considerations, however, Mr Gerstenberg is the heir apparent because he is a perfect organisation man. That is important in a company that pays more attention to steady competent team players who are patient than to brilliant, ambitious in-fighters constantly struggling for more power. "Gerstenberg is the archetype GM executive," says David Lewis, a former GM public relations man who now is a professor of business history at the University of Michigan. "He is just what GM wants an executive to be. He has never made a mistake."—AP-Dow Jones.



Part of the prototype fast breeder nuclear reactor at Dounreay

Dounreay prototype reactor in final stages

From Peter Rodgers, Technology Correspondent

Dounreay, Thursday THE MOST ADVANCED nuclear reactor in the world, the prototype fast breeder at Dounreay in the far north of Scotland, is in its final construction stages, the UK Atomic Energy Authority said today.

Testing and commissioning is now planned for early next year, the reactor will go critical at the end of 1972 and the first power will be delivered to the grid at the beginning of 1973.

This is 18 months later than expected but Britain is still level-pegging with the Russians and just over a year ahead of the French in the development of this new generation of nuclear power stations, which are expected to be important well into the 21st century. A site for the first commercial sized breeder should be chosen next year.

Foreign interest in Dounreay has been extensive and recent visitors include Russia's Minister of Science and the chairman of the South African Atomic Energy Commission.

The Atomic Energy Authority and the Central Electricity Generating Board are trying hard to avoid the disastrously expensive mistakes made with earlier generations of nuclear power stations.

Mr R. V. Moore, managing director of the AEA's reactor group, said: "Perhaps in the past this country had not done sufficiently well in getting a smooth and efficient transformation to the all important commercial phase. This time we are determined to get over these shortcomings and get a commercial fast breeder reactor in operation as soon as possible after the prototype has been drawn up by the CEGB and the AEA allow the

option of starting to build a full size commercial reactor in 1974. Whether or not this will happen has yet to be decided and it depends on a range of political decisions and the satisfactory operation of the PFR.

Critics have suggested that construction of the full size station in 1974 allows little more than a year of experience of the prototype and it is on the cards that the Government will delay it. Mr Moore said that in fact the vital decisions on the precise type of fuel to be used in the full size reactor would not need to be taken until 1976, two years after the start of the five-year construction period, and allowing much more decision time.

With 250mw output compared with a planned 1,300mw for the full size station—the prototype will make valuable sales of electricity and may be stretched to 300mw. At a price per unit of 0.25p the revenue for the AEA will be \$4 millions a year. The prototype costs \$35 millions and \$200 millions has been spent altogether on the fast breeder programme.

The AEA is planning a slow and careful start up programme to avoid mistakes which could be disastrous for plans to go straight into commercial stations. The commercial reactor design is very similar to that of the prototype and the intention is to stick with the design with only minor alterations for the first programme of fast breeders.

The Magnox and advanced gas-cooled reactors suffered numerous design changes from station to station which inflated the cost enormously and caused endless delays.

For similar reasons the CEGB wants to drop intermediate designs of reactors which are planned to come between the present generations and the breeder, and go straight to the new stations.

Breeder reactors more than halve the fuel costs of nuclear generation by burning uranium 100 times more efficiently. Their plutonium fuel is a byproduct of conventional uranium reactors, and the new generation also breeds more plutonium than it consumes.

The AEA claims that the capital cost will be about the same as for conventional nuclear stations of the same size and the electricity cost will be less.

Plutonium has been called the most toxic substance in the world, which was one good reason for the fast pace of the early research projects in the north of Scotland. AEA scientists are convinced that they have solved the problems of safety and the handling of the liquid sodium which it used to transfer the heat from the reactor to the steam generators.

The four-ton core of the reactor has been sunk in a pit and hangs in a 2,500-ton heat removal system containing 900 tons of sodium. It is designed so that the most

serious faults possible other than a burst in the big containment vessel can be corrected in a matter of months, and in days in the case of minor faults. Sodium can also be dumped immediately if anything goes wrong.

In spite of the AEA's confidence, there have been problems with breeders around the world, including the decision to abandon the 300 MW Enrico Fermi breeder reactor on the shores of Lake Michigan in the USA.

The USA is now planning to have a large demonstration breeder of either 300 or 600 MW working in 1980, which puts it well behind Britain, but Russia's 350 MW reactor is nearing completion and the French are close behind, so Britain's lead is now rather slender.

French and German companies are planning to build jointly a 1,000 MW commercial breeder in the near future and Britain is also making the first tentative moves to international cooperation in breeders.

The Nuclear Power Group, which is building the PFR for the AEA, has signed a cooperation agreement with Kraftwerk Union of West Germany which is expected to include work on fast breeders. Talks on this have started.

The AEA hopes to be able to avoid the trap Britain fell into with the advanced gas cooled reactors, when designs were so tailored made to the CEGB's needs that nobody abroad would buy them.

Mr Ron Campbell of the Nuclear Power Group, who was responsible for building the PFR, said that the different designs of breeders around the world were nearly all closely similar, which would make international cooperation much easier than with earlier reactors. These were of widely different and incompatible designs.

MARKET REPORT

Index up 1.4 in quiet trading

Stock markets passed another very quiet day with price movements mostly restricted to a few pence in either direction. By the close the FT Index was up just 1.4 at 413.0.

Wall Street's uninspiring performance overnight, together with continuing concern about the international currency scene and pending wage demands at home, prompted easier conditions at the outset.

But the small selling orders dried up around midday and the market staged a modest rally with the help of some "bear" closing operations.

Thereafter, prices were content to hold at around the slightly improved levels with investors awaiting a lead from Imperial Chemical Industries whose second-quarter figures are to be announced today.

Glits started the day with widespread falls of 1 or so, still on the feeling that a Bank rate cut is unlikely in the near future. However, a few buyers came in towards the close and losses were wiped out or reversed.

Dull at first, industrial leaders perked up to finish at, or close to, overnight levels. ICI were up 2p at 329p.

However, Boverats, 4p off at 180p, were a dull market throughout the report about the New Zealand troubles. Trading statements provided virtually the only source of interest around the industrial sections. The major features on this score was L. Fairclough, which bounded up to 243p on the excellent half-time figures and news of a record motorway contract.

Activity on the bid front was centred on Blumel Bros, 9p down at 88p, following the rejection of the final Bristol Street offer which is due on Friday. Bristol Street scored a 3p rise at 130p.

Banks recovered from early weakness, and some insurances turned better towards the close.

Kaffirs were undecided, but Cons. Murchison dropped 22p at 317p following a cut in the price of antimony. Australians lost ground.

In dull oils, BP fell 10p to 589p on suggestions that a rights issue may accompany next week's interim statement.

The number of bargains marked totalled 10,108 compared with 10,189 on Tuesday and 11,829 the previous Wednesday.

NMA total stays same

With a final of 8p per cent, the total dividend of the NMA Company of New Zealand is being held at 12 per cent, of which 4 per cent will be paid from capital reserve. However the profit dropped in the past year from £1,422,000 to £1,112,000 before providing £581,000 (£589,000) for tax.

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Clarkson Int Tools interim profit up 8p

Clarkson International Tools group will earn not less than £1 million in 1971-2, compared with £926,000 last year, yet again has managed to increase earnings in spite of the still very depressed state of the machine tool industry.

Interim profits, released today, have increased just over 8 per cent to £870,300 and after a lower rate of tax attributable earnings work out at £522,200, against £424,000.

Furthermore, although the board is maintaining the interim dividend at 12½ per cent it forecasts an increase in total payments for the year.

Clarkson, based in Nuneaton, manufactures precision engineering tools, milling chucks and cutters.

F. J. Wallis pays 20 pc interim

Much improved first half profits by F. J. Wallis, the store group, prompt a five points lift to 20 per cent in the interim dividend. A 20 per cent increase to £10,025,000 in the turnover has produced a 35 per cent jump to £570,000 in the pre-tax profit.

The directors report that the three new stores have been trading with satisfactory results. They anticipate that at least six new stores will be opened before the end of the year and that the second half will provide continued growth.

London & Midland is buoyant

Mr Michael Bryce, chairman of London and Midland Industrials was in a buoyant mood at the annual meeting yesterday. He told shareholders that steps should be taken to fund a substantial part of the borrowings which stood at £1.5 millions on March 31. He added that the board regard the present level of profits as a platform from which further development and growth will come.

The group has given a good account of itself in the first four months of the current year, the board believes that the

Letraset gains by industrial

The 1971 report and accounts of Letraset once again show that the company's 6th impressive profits progress have been held back by its industrial division.

Last year Letraset materials contributed £4.1 million to industrial division profits of £78,000 on turnover of £1.1 million.

Although the company's man, Mr J. Davies, said that the loss by the industrial division was small year than in 1969-70, he prepared to predict a profit in 1971.

However in his report Davies forecasts "a considerable increase" in overall profits for the current year. A circular to institutions, company's brokers said, should increase by 20 p to £572,000 pre-tax. With shares at 50p this would the price earnings ratio 18 to just over 13.

General Eng. makes progress

General Engineering (cliffe) is making progress in the new year, Mr R. B. Ogden, the chairman, reported that turnover for the four months since the end was in line with expectations. He added that the also been substantial in the reduction in the number of debtors which was high at the end of May.

China clay group boom

Watts, Blake, Bearn China clay group, continuing a 7 per cent increase in 1970-71, a 30 per cent jump to £2 million in the pre-tax profit for the months to June 30.

PHILBLACK LIMITED

The Thirty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of Philblack Limited will be held on September 28, 1971, in London. The following is the statement by the Chairman, Mr. G. Walker, which has been circulated with the Report Accounts for the year ended March 31, 1971.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome to the Mr. R. M. Simpson who was appointed on the 23rd Feb 1971. He has been with the company since 1966 and has the appointments of Assistant Works Manager and Manager and is now the Bristol General Manager. I have to report a year of considerable difficulty in respects. The problems which faced the car industry, and more, the tyre industry, to which I referred last year continued and accentuated during 1970-71, thus making demand for our products substantially less than we had anticipated. Nevertheless, the turnover was increased by £300,000, and this was in real terms as the volume increased by 4%, which was mostly in the export market.

Trading Conditions

On the 1st January prices were increased by between 10% and 15% but I am afraid that this is not sufficient to cover the cost increases that have occurred both before and since. We have had to make major increases in costs of material and have also experienced some unexpected difficulties in the supply situation. These were brought about by the East oil crisis, by the U.S.A. air pollution requirements, the consequent tanker shortage. Finally, there was a explosion in a refinery of one of our suppliers, which had a fatal effect on the turnover of raw materials. This latter accident increased our raw material costs by £126,000. Fortunately, this was a one off increase, but the other hand, world fuel oil prices have almost doubled. August, 1970, with consequential increases in carbon black which we have been able to make with the aid of our raw materials at competitive prices, and following expiry of our tanker charter, we have entered into a charter which will ensure reasonable freight charges over the three to four years.

Development Programme Completed

Capital expenditure during the year was nearly £5 million and this allowed us to complete development of the Avonmouth plant and to make modifications to the requirements of changes in technology. We have also an LFF reactor which enables us to produce carbon black in a larger particle size. The advantages of this development gas as a tangential fuel from the 1st May, giving us both and technical benefits.

Debtenture Stock Issue

In November, with the help of our advisers, we issued £1,500,000 in the form of an 11% Debtenture Stock, and we do not doubt that in a period when British industry has liquidity problems, this arrangement is very much to the benefit of your Company and enables us to pursue our plans with flexibility which would not otherwise have been the case.

Current Outlook

The immediate problems which face the industry are (a) the current generally slow economic growth of the country, (b) the excessive rise in costs as indicated by an increase of nearly 25% in raw material prices since January of this year, and (c) excess capacity in the United Kingdom, which will be in a few months time.

These problems are serious although not exceptional for industry as a whole. On the other hand our ability to pay by higher selling prices, enabling us to regain the profits which we have experienced in recent years may be delayed.

In spite of all the difficulties to which I have referred, the Company is well placed to take advantage of a resurgent trading activity in the car and tyre industries, and it is in my mind and having regard to the non-recurring nature of at least one of the cost factors to which I have referred, your Board has decided to recommend the maintenance of the dividend.

Finally, I am sure you will all join me in a word of thanks to a fine team which has worked extremely well in less easy circumstances.

Belgian firms seek export freedom

The Belgian Industry Federation has asked the Government to abolish its tax on exports immediately because Belgian sales abroad are slowing. In a letter to the Belgian Prime Minister, the trade group noted that Belgium's trade balance shifted to a deficit of nearly 10,000 million francs in the first half of 1971 from a surplus of more than 10,000 million francs a year earlier.

Exports increased only 2 per cent in the 1971 first half after years of 15 per cent rises. The letter ascribed the lower 1971

Record motorway contract

The biggest single motorway contract worth almost £16 million—yet to be placed in the United Kingdom has been won by a consortium.

The contract, which has gone to the Sir Alfred McAlpine and Son Ltd/Leonard Fairclough Ltd consortium, is for building 13.44 miles of the M62 motorway between Tarbock and Risley, Lancashire.

It also includes a major interchange with the M6 at Croft and piping the St Helens Canal under the new motorway.

The contract was awarded by the Department of the Environment's North Western Road Construction Unit.

Fairclough profits keep rising

Leonard Fairclough, the Aldridge engineering and building contractor whose profits have increased each year almost without interruption over the past decade, seems to be heading for another record year.

Pre-tax profit leaped from £510,000 to £764,000 in the six months to June 30 and the interim dividend is being raised by 24 pence to 12½ p.

The outlook seems bright. In his comments on the order position, Mr Oswald Davies, the chairman, reports that the group's basic competitiveness has enabled it to maintain its workload at a satisfactory level.

The group has picked up some major civil engineering contracts and he believes that the contribution from the private development side should be increased by rationalisation.

Leonard Fairclough has had its successes overseas, but Mr Davies emphasises that the board has set strict criteria for examining work before making any commitments.

Japanese banks join to form new giant

Dai-ichi Bank and Nippon Kangyo Bank said yesterday that they have completed legal procedures to merge on October 1. The new bank will be known as the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank and will have a combined capital of 54,000 million yen, making it Japan's largest commercial bank, the announcement said.

This would be equivalent to \$185 millions on the floating yen rate. At present, Japan's largest commercial bank is the Fuji Bank which is capitalised at approximately \$148 millions.

The announcement said the new bank would rank twelfth in the world in terms of consolidated accounts. It will have its headquarters in Tokyo and plans to have 229 branches in Japan and one each in New York, London, Los Angeles and Taipei before the end of the year. The Japanese Finance Ministry has approved the terms for the merger.—AP-Dow Jones.

Home loan societies urge link

Directors of Hastings and East Sussex Building Society are recommending members to accept proposals for a £200-million merger with Hastings and Thanet Building Society to be put in them by special resolution at a meeting on October 5.

The chairman of the Hastings and East Sussex Building Society says that the main provisions of the merger ensure that all investing shareholders in Hastings and East Sussex will receive shares in Hastings and Thanet to the same nominal value as their existing shareholding, and members holding classes B, D second issue, and D term shares will receive an equivalent holding for the time being in exactly similar issues by Hastings and Thanet (both as to rate of interest and terms and conditions of issue).

Subject to Inland Revenue approval, it is intended that members with investments in both societies be allowed to retain these.

Price Forbes

Figures published on Price Forbes in yesterday's Guardian relate to the six months to June 30 and not as stated.

Long John profit up

Long John International—formerly Seager Evans—has made an impressive profit forecast after last year's 46 per cent slump in profits to £704,000 pre-tax.

Interim profits have increased from £384,000 to £573,000 but the board is to pay no interim dividend again since the interim last year of 4 per cent.

The chairman, Mr Ian Coombs, explained last night that the directors simply wished to conserve the group's cash

Judgment for TWA

A United States court of appeals affirmed a lower court judgment of \$145,448,141 on a complaint by Trans World Airlines (TWA) alleging violations of anti-trust laws against Howard R. Hughes and the Hughes Tool Co. and Raymond M. Holiday.

The court of appeals modified the judgment by increasing the interest on the judgment at the rate of 7.5 per cent. The usual rate is 6 per cent.

Companies in brief

Interim results
Musical and Plastic Industries: Net profit £10,252 (£45,081) after interest of £10,759 (£15,091) and tax nil (£10,000).
Elliott Group of Peterborough: 12 pc (same). Pre-tax profit £199,465 (£163,555). Tax takes £57,556 to £136,189. Directors expect to see a further rise in trading profits for full year.

Final results
Westminster and Country Properties: 3.5 pc making 46.45 pc. Profit £245,510 (£160,555). Deduct loan stock interest £36,000 (same), tax £110,514 (£73,609) and minorities £17,662 (£11,929).

Business changes

Mr R. F. Hunt, deputy chairman of the Dowty Group, has additionally been appointed chairman of Dowty Fuel Systems.

S&U Stores Limited

Extracts from Mr. C. Coombes' statement

Turnover Despite the postal strike which seriously affected our mail order and credit divisions, ten months' group turnover, at £12.8 million, showed improvement over the previous full year (£13.8 million).

Profit Pre-tax profit was £574,243 for the ten months compared with £556,420 for the preceding twelve months. Post tax figures were £442,665 (£399,274).

Dividend A 15% final dividend on the cumulative preferred ordinary shares, making 25% for the year, and 5% dividend on the ordinary shares, making a 10% total, are

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ACROSS

1. Soon (5, 4).
2. A lass of parts (7).
3. Thought (5).
4. At that point (4).
5. Having curative qualities (8).
6. Unit of circular measure (6).
7. — to a bull (3, 3).
8. Plan (3).
9. Jack, — for gambler (4).
10. Daughter of Tantalus — petrified (5).

DOWN

1. Have a dip (5).
2. "The song of the —" (4).
3. Bacon slice (5).
4. Cheshire town on the Teifi (8).
5. More objectionable (7).
6. Alpine mountain (10).
7. Entrusting (3).
8. Paul, — for French technician (6).
9. Its fruit is a hip (3, 4).
10. Dressed stiffly (6).
11. Statement of belief (5).
12. Marine rate

Solution No. 495

Across: 6 Abbey theatre; 3 Whiter, Sampson; 10 Trent; 11 Speed; 13 Light; 12 Denbigh; 2 Stolid; 19 Sunday; 20 Get out of wind.

Down: 1 Rather rattled; 2 Abated; 3 Hydrant; 4 Thus; 5 Gaumn; 7 Roaring; 8 Set; 9 off; 10 Solace; 11

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民國三十四年四月二十二日

Concorde men ban overtime

By KEITH HARPER

Concorde's flight testing programme could be delayed by the ban on overtime ordered yesterday by workers at the British Aircraft Corporation factory at Filton, Bristol.

The overtime ban came after the company's announcement that another 1,200 workers at five plants are to be made redundant. The firm said not much production will be affected because little overtime is being worked. Only Concorde could be hit.

The decision at Filton was taken after 2,000 workers, including office staff, draughtsmen, and production workers, had walked out in protest at the BAC announcement. The company claims that it has been forced into making more labour cuts because of a sharp reduction in aircraft orders. Nearly 3,000 of the 37,000 labour force have been paid off in the past nine months.

The workers voted unanimously to ban overtime in every department at Filton, where Concorde is being developed until BAC agrees to recognise the unofficial trade union redundancy committee. This was set up several weeks ago at Filton to represent the 17 blue and white collar unions with members in the factory.

At the BAC factory at Weybridge, Surrey, 1,500 shop floor workers last night agreed to ban overtime until the company agrees to stop some of the 295 redundancies. Similar decisions are likely to be taken at

All car sales records broken

By VICTOR KEEGAN, Industrial Correspondent

The first statistical evidence of a consumer boom came yesterday with the news that more new cars were sold on hire purchase in August than in any other month on record.

A combination of the Chancellor's reflationary measures in July and the start of the new car registration year unleashed an unprecedented rush.

According to "Hire Purchase Information" 40,615 new car contracts were made last month, 53 per cent above a year earlier and almost double the July figure.

These figures actually underestimate the revival of credit buying because most people now use personal loans rather than traditional HP to finance their purchases and a large number of these transactions are not passed on to "HP Information" by the finance houses.

Most of the largest finance houses yesterday expected the boom to continue, though inevitably on a lower key—a feeling that is shared by the motor industry itself.

Figures for sales of cars in August will not be known until later this month, but they are expected to be very high. In recent months HP sales have been running at 22 per cent of total sales of new cars, but the abolition of HP restrictions is bound to have upset this relationship.

The latest trade expectation is that August registrations will be a third above the 102,000 recorded last August.

Business was already reviving in July, which is unusual because normally customers wait a month to get the new registration suffix which starts in August. The revival occurred because "personal loans" were already freely on offer as a way round the restrictions on HP down payments.

Also, increased supplies of the new British Leyland Marina were available to satisfy orders placed months before and supplies of the strike-hit Ford Cortina improved to satisfy a backlog of orders.

Abolition of HP controls gave a psychological push and wider publicity to a situation that already existed—the availability of personal loans.

The traditional kind of HP transaction with a deposit and fixed repayments before ownership is in danger of extinction as far as individual purchasers are concerned.

Most transactions are now tied to personal loans, with instant ownership of the car and less small print to worry about. One consequence of this is that finance houses keep less track of what the customer does with his money.

The HP boom is concentrated mainly on new cars. HP sales of second-hand cars rose by only 22 per cent last August, indicating that the registration proved a big selling point for new cars.

Figures published by the Department of Trade and Industry show that production of cars in July, at 21,400 a week, was only 6 per cent above a year earlier.

HASTINGS puts on a brave front—raffish at one end and imperious at the other. But behind the front are the growing problems of housing and drugs.

The Simon Community Trust, which helps those who are beyond the help of the welfare state or practically any other charity, has established a "commando unit" in Hastings to try to alleviate both problems.

The trust is now trying to organise itself into a legal housing association, and a formerly condemned house is being rebuilt as an emergency housing centre.

Mr Anton Wallich-Clifford, the founder of the trust, says Hastings borough council is strangled by red tape. The council, he says, refuses to accept that there is a problem, and he puts official resistance to the trust down to the fact that it draws attention to the semi-submerged social decay. The council has now been persuaded to approve of the housing centre plan—and the trust has a letter from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary for Social Services.

Cracks in the seaside front

The phone rang and a man offered them a shop for a week near the town. The trust already shares two rooms in St Leonard's as national and local headquarters—they need a "commando" front window downtown. The offer was accepted, but it came too late for the bank holiday.

Hastings council had refused them permission to pitch a three-roomed tent on the front as an advice centre for the bank holiday teenage invaders. It said: "An important question of policy was involved and could not take a decision until the committee met in September."

The trust feels that the council's new director of social services, Mr Brian Dickinson, is very helpful. But the council will not face up to what is happening to Hastings. Mr Wallich-Clifford says: "The kids are hitting Hastings from

Liverpool, Swindon, London, and all around Counties. We are to talk to someone in the council's staff at 4.15 p.m. I failed, and I am regarded as much of a failure in Hastings. But the trust sometimes calls Community in sheer of knows that the Hastings leader, Marie Stang, has a reputation for derelicts in 30 minutes."

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Age pron actic

By our own

Mr Bob Waller, the Association Travel Agency, promised "se" against any t. found to have association's cod. An offending r face a reprimand expulsion from tion.

A committee appointed last n into allegations tour operators. to the association this month. If a parent infringement the offender will appear before the

Expulsion from tion, Mr Waller amount to taking pany's licence to members would r deal with it.

Companies have before, but only reach financial for infringement.

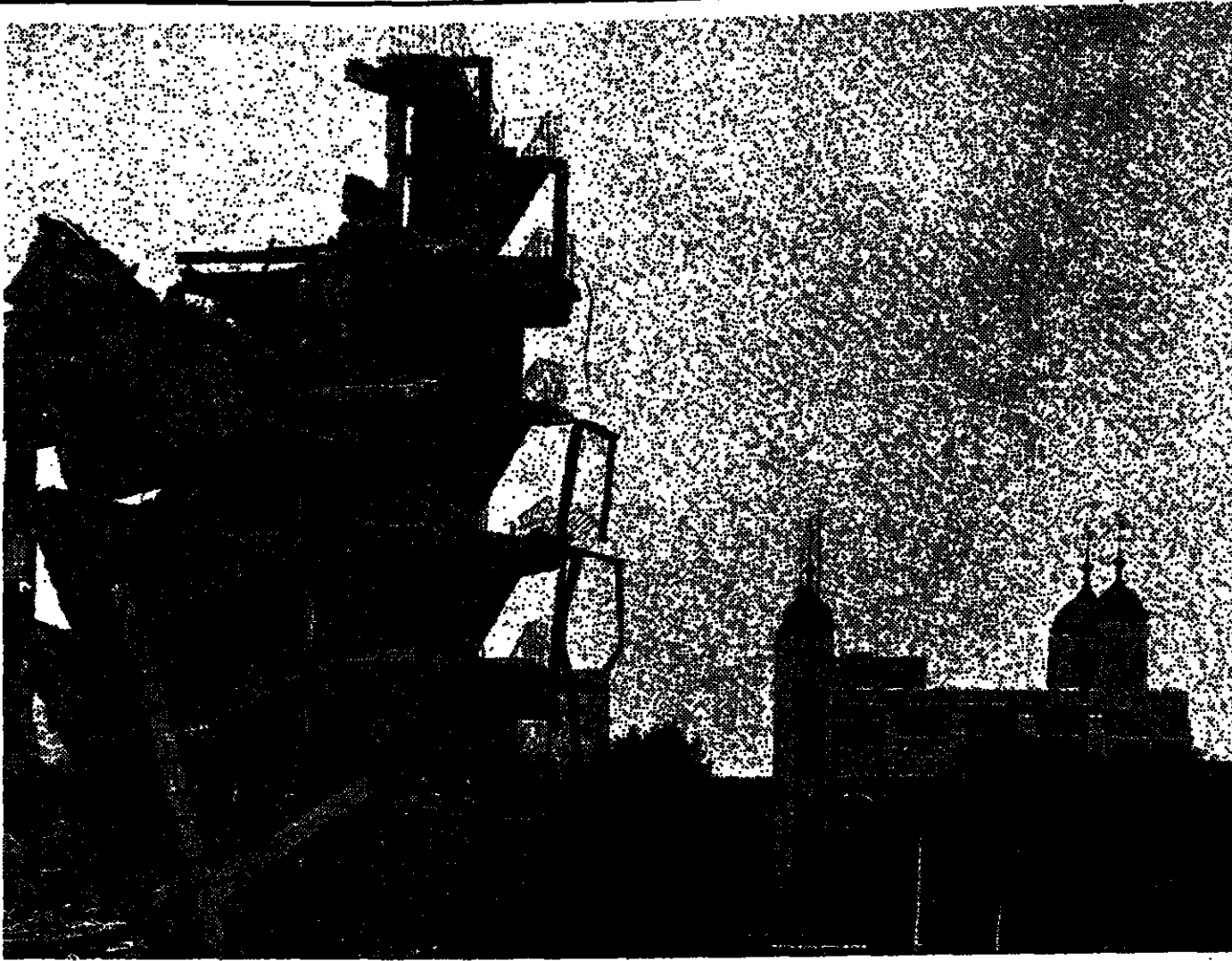
George Jackson, operator chairman the Anglo-Span party which was ways of eliminat ing and bookings hotels.

The idea of a authority propos some was not as Waller. The st intended to lay about such matter descriptions of re Trade Descriptions public sufficient p Waller said.

But the associ to pursue Clarko posal of a standar procedure to dea plaints against to

Bentine 'c into roug

The light air Stuart, aged 21, is police to have cras sea in bad weather attempting to land boat race off Port



Floored . . . a building under demolition contrasts strangely with the unalterable look of the Tower of London

327 more UCS redundancies

By JOHN KERR

A further 327 Upper Clyde Shipbuilders workers are to be dismissed as redundant at the end of this week. Half of them are employed at the Clydebank yard and the dismissals will bring the total of redundancies to 726.

At this rate the shop stewards' "work in" could run into serious financial difficulties in the near future.

Mr James Reid, one of the shop stewards' leaders, claimed that there was no immediate danger of the workers' movement being broken up by the growing level of redundancy they were going to need a lot of money.

But he said, they had got no satisfaction. He suggested that the reports of jobs available on the Lower Clyde were just part of a "dressing up" performance that was clouding the real issues.

Mr George Perry, managing director of General Motors (Scotland) Ltd, as assessed, he was asked by Mr Cousins about the reported availability of jobs on the Lower Clyde, which might provide alternative employment for UCS men.

Mr Reid claimed that these just did not exist. Union officials, he said, had visited the Lower Clyde and advised the management of the number of unemployed shipyard workers available on the upper reaches of the river.

But, he said, they had got no satisfaction. He suggested that the reports of jobs available on the Lower Clyde were just part of a "dressing up" performance that was clouding the real issues.

Mr Belch said that the vacancies were in specific trades, and the first requirement was for steel workers. The company had recently received applications for pipe fitters, but had no jobs at the moment in this trade.

The committee also found itself in some difficulty over sections of the evidence offered by Mr Michael Barratt Brown, an economist at Sheffield University.

Mr Brown suggested the concept of a "social audit" to determine the consequences of an industrial crisis on the scale of the UCS collapse. On the basis of studies carried out in West Yorkshire and Derbyshire, where communities had been badly hit by contraction in the mining and railway industries, he estimated that it would cost the authorities £8,000 to move each family forced to leave the Upper Clyde area in search of work. This could mean a total expenditure of between £32 million and £96 million to resettle the families likely to be displaced if there were 5,000 redundancies at UCS.

Market divides the Co-ops

By our Political Staff

The two giants of the Co-Operative Movement—the Wholesale Society and the London Co-Operative Society—have taken diametrically opposed stands on the Common Market, and each is now planning how to win over smaller units in the movement at a special congress in London on Saturday.

The CWS is in favour of entry because it means wider trade with Europe, and the LCS is against because it believes that value added tax will fall most heavily on housewives and old people, that the Common Agricultural Policy will cause prices to rise, and that the Treaty of Rome prevents public ownership.

The anti-Market London Co-Op is meeting three other anti-Market Co-Op societies in London tomorrow to write an anti-Market amendment to the pro-Market resolution to be put to the 500 delegates at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Although the other two wings of the Labour Movement, the Parliamentary Labour Party and the TUC, will undoubtedly reject the Market at their

conferences, Mr B. T. Parry, the chairman of the Co-Operative Union Central Executive, will move a noncommittal pro-Market resolution.

There will then be a composite amendment taking in Barnsley's (British) request to stand by the Labour Party, York and Glasgow's (retail services) reservation that, having entered, links must be strengthened with European Co-Operative Societies and London's reminder of the Co-Op's previous anti-Market stand.

The London delegates will have the advantage of being able to cast a block anti-Market vote of about 1.2 million out of a total vote of 12 million.

They will probably be joined by an anti-Market vote of 500,000 from the Royal Arsenal and 160,000 from Barnsley (British).

But the CWS, the main supplier to all the retail Co-Op's, has about the same number of votes as the London Co-Op. Although the CWS supplies New Zealand dairy produce to Co-Op shops, its board of 50 members voted overwhelmingly for entry.

EEC debate "holiday" ending, page 2

Inquiry faces boycott

Continued from page one

sonnel whose evidence we may require. "We intend to issue a communication to each man now under detention, asking him to state if he has a complaint to make within our terms of reference, and telling him that if he has, we shall arrange to hear him. Similarly we are inviting each person detained on August 9 and since released from detention to state his complaint if he has one. We understand that a copy of our report will be published."

Members of the inquiry would not comment further yesterday, but it is expected that they will make their position more clear this morning.

As the Northern Ireland Government continued to consider ways of making the border more secure another shooting incident occurred yesterday afternoon. Soldiers who were preparing sandbags outside the police station in Forkhill, Co Armagh, were fired upon, but no one was hurt and it was not clear whether the shots came from the Republic or the North.

In Belfast an explosion yesterday afternoon damaged an electricity transformer off Alliance Road, cutting supplies in the area for about half an hour. Early yesterday morning another bomb caused severe damage to the "Talk of the Town" night club in Bridgeend, East Belfast. The explosion came after a night during which soldiers were fired on in at least seven incidents around Belfast.

Toolroom vote for one-day strikes

A mass meeting at Coventry yesterday of several thousand toolroom workers endorsed a decision to stage a series of weekly one-day strikes.

Mr Alan Berry, director of the Coventry Engineering Employers' Association, gave a warning that further action by the men would cause wide spread lay-offs in Coventry factories.

The mass meeting was called by the men to decide on further action over the scrapping by the employers' association of the unique 30-year-old Coventry Toolroom Pay Agreement.

Talks which could end the Lucas strike at Birmingham are to be held tomorrow between

shop stewards and local officials of the five unions involved.

It will be the first meeting between union officials and the strike leaders since the 300 engineers walked out 12 days ago in a dispute over a holiday bonus claim, closing nine Lucas factories. Thirteen thousand men have been put out of work and supplies of components to the motor industry threatened.

Four hundred hospital laboratory technicians started a blood test strike in the East Midlands yesterday in support of pay negotiating nights. They are also banning weekend and clerical work. But emergency duties will still be carried out.

The strike affects breathalysers blood samples taken by police from drivers and sent for independent analysis.

STOP PRESS

When Mr Reid spoke for the shop stewards at this inquiry, which is being conducted by Dr Raymond Hilsley, professor of sociology at Aberdeen University, assisted by Mr Frank Cousins, formerly general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and

Showers in most areas

A SW to W airstream will cover the British Isles and troughs of low pressure will move E across N. Ireland, Scotland and N. Ireland. But brighter showery weather will spread to most parts during the day. Mainly cloudy with some occasional rain or drizzle, although some bright intervals are expected. Wind S.W. to W. with drizzle in places and hill and coastal fog patches. S.E. England, the Midlands, Cent S. England, and E. England will be mainly dry with bright or sunny spells. Temperatures will be near or rather below normal.

London area, S.E. Cent S. England, E. England, W. Midlands, Channel Islands, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, 20C (68F).

SW England, S. Wales: Rather cloudy with occasional drizzle. Near coastal hills and coastal fog patches. Wind S.W. moderate, fresh locally and near coasts. Max temp 18C (64F).

W. Wales, NW England, Lakes, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy. Occasional rain or drizzle. Wind S.W. to W. with drizzle in places and hill and coastal fog patches. Max temp 16C (61F).

Borders, Edinburgh and E. Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Becoming mainly cloudy with some rain. Wind S.W. to W. with drizzle in places and hill and coastal fog patches. Max temp 16C (61F).

SW and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: Becoming mainly cloudy with some rain. Wind S.W. to W. with drizzle in places and hill and coastal fog patches. Max temp 16C (61F).

Outlook: Unsettled in the N and W with periods of rain but also sunny intervals. Temperatures a little below normal. The wind will be mostly dry with some sunny periods and near normal temperatures.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES
Birmingham . . . 8.25 a.m. to 5.50 a.m.
Bristol . . . 8.30 p.m. to 5.50 a.m.
London . . . 8.15 p.m. to 5.50 a.m.
Northampton . . . 8.25 p.m. to 5.50 a.m.

MOON: Full Sept. 5

THE WEATHER

AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 p.m. yesterday:

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Weather
North	12-18	SW	1-4	Sunny
East	14-20	SW	1-4	Sunny
South	16-22	SW	1-4	Sunny
West	14-20	SW	1-4	Sunny
North	12-18	SW	1-4	Sunny
East	14-20	SW	1-4	Sunny
South	16-22	SW	1-4	Sunny
West	14-20	SW	1-4	Sunny

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